

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001 - 4:00 P.M.  
PALM BEACH LAKES COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
3505 SHILOH DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:  
JULIE L. DOHERTY, RPR  
COURT REPORTER  
Division of Administrative Hearings  
DeSoto Building  
1230 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, Florida  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE  
 2 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.  
 3 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN  
 4 SENATOR RON KLEIN  
 5 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.  
 6 SENATOR BILL POSEY  
 7 SENATOR TOM ROSSIN  
 8 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER  
 9 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL  
 10 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL  
 11 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW  
 12 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
 13 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN  
 14 REPRESENTATIVE LOIS J. FRANKEL  
 15 REPRESENTATIVE ANNE M. GANNON  
 16 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA  
 17 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES HARPER, JR.  
 18 REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE B. HARRELL  
 19 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.  
 20 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER  
 21 REPRESENTATIVE DICK KRAVITZ  
 22 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY D. KOTTKAMP  
 23 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN  
 24 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN  
 25 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH R. SPRATT  
 2 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN  
 3 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES  
 4  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 PROCEEDINGS  
 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We would like to thank everyone for  
 3 coming here today. I'm Daniel Webster, Senator from  
 4 District 12, and chairman of the Senate Reapportionment  
 5 Committee. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this public  
 6 hearing, one of many we will be holding throughout the  
 7 state this summer and fall. Let me first explain the  
 8 procedure we will use throughout these public hearings.  
 9 This is a public hearing, the sole purpose of which is  
 10 to hear from the public on matters of redistricting. This  
 11 is not a committee meeting. We will not be taking  
 12 legislative action in this or subsequent public hearings.  
 13 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have the  
 14 opportunity, you have the opportunity to -- we have the  
 15 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral  
 16 districts. It is not time for legislative debate. All  
 17 Representatives and Senators will have numerous  
 18 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and  
 19 committee hearings and floor debates to address all of the  
 20 members' concerns and wishes.  
 21 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not  
 22 diminish their voice by taking up valuable time today in  
 23 debate.  
 24 Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a  
 25 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Staff will then provide some specific information about the  
 2 census results in this region and the state. The rest of  
 3 the time is reserved for you, the citizens.  
 4 Every ten years after completion of the updated  
 5 national census, the Constitution requires that the Florida  
 6 Legislature redraw the boundaries for the Florida House,  
 7 the Florida Senate and the Congressional, Florida's  
 8 Congressional districts.  
 9 The Legislature will take up this task next  
 10 legislative session which begins January 22nd, 2002 and  
 11 will end March 22nd, 2002. The districts we draw will  
 12 first be used in the elections in November of 2002.  
 13 Redistricting is a central element of our representative  
 14 democracy. We take this task on with humility and due  
 15 regard of the importance and difficulty of the job.  
 16 We are committed that the process will be fair and  
 17 open and inclusive. These public hearings represent a  
 18 first crucial step in this process. We appreciate that we  
 19 are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from you  
 20 and help you participate in a meaningful way.  
 21 To encourage public participation, Senate President  
 22 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled at  
 23 least 22 public hearings throughout the state. All members  
 24 of the legislative redistricting committee as well as local  
 25 delegation members have been invited to these public  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 6

1 hearings.

2 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool  
 3 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on  
 4 Florida's public television station. The web addresses for  
 5 the House and Senate legislative redistricting are  
 6 available at the information table. A link also will be  
 7 available from Florida legislative web site.

8 The redistricting plan for the State House and State  
 9 Senate will pass in the form of a joint resolution which  
 10 will not be subject to the Governor's veto; however, it  
 11 will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan  
 12 for determining Congressional districts will be -- will not  
 13 be reviewed by the Supreme Court but will be subject to the  
 14 veto or approval of the Governor.

15 I encourage everyone to be -- to carefully review the  
 16 2000 census. It is the essential building block on which  
 17 Florida's redistricting plan will be built. The address  
 18 for the United States Census web site is available at the  
 19 information table.

20 We will hear -- we are here to listen and consider  
 21 your voice. We encourage each member of the public to  
 22 testify and help us craft your legislative districts. We  
 23 also encourage written submissions in addition to public  
 24 testimony during the public hearing.

25 Everyone wishing to speak must fill out a speaker's  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 7

1 card which are available at the back table, the table when  
 2 you came in, the sign-up table. This is the only way we  
 3 will know who wishes to speak and after hearing who  
 4 actually spoke. We want to hear from as many people as  
 5 possible; therefore, we must limit comments to four minutes  
 6 each.

7 On behalf of Senate President John McKay, House  
 8 Speaker Tom Feeney, and members of the Florida Legislature,  
 9 I look forward to working with each of you on this historic  
 10 and important task.

11 At this time I'd like to recognize former Senator Jim  
 12 Scott who served during the previous reapportionment  
 13 process, and is the Senate lead counsel on reapportionment  
 14 and redistricting. Senator Scott.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members.  
 16 As indicated, I'm special counsel to the Florida Senate for  
 17 redistricting and reapportionment matters. I'm here with  
 18 Miguel DeGrandy, represented by George Meros today, counsel  
 19 for the House. My job today is to give you, and especially  
 20 the members of the public, an overview of the law regarding  
 21 redistricting and reapportionment.

22 This presentation is by no means intended to be  
 23 comprehensive or a complete review of all the issues on the  
 24 topic, but is intended to give you an introduction of the  
 25 basic principles and constraints that will guide the  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 8

1 decision-making of our State Legislature as it proceeds  
 2 with this important task.

3 As the chairman has indicated, every ten years the  
 4 task of redistricting and reapportionment falls on the  
 5 Florida Legislature and it is required by both the Florida  
 6 and United States Constitutions. This year because of  
 7 Florida's population increase over the last ten years,  
 8 Florida will have two additional members in the United  
 9 States Congress, a total of 25 seats.

10 The State Legislature, therefore, will need to create  
 11 25 separate, contiguous districts that will cover the  
 12 entire state, one for each of those members of Congress.  
 13 The Legislature will also need, as the Chairman has  
 14 indicated, to divide the state into 40 Senate districts and  
 15 120 House of Representative districts. Although if they  
 16 choose, the number of State Senate districts could be  
 17 reduced to as low as 30 and House districts to as low as 80  
 18 under the Constitution.

19 The Florida Constitution also requires that the State  
 20 House and Senate districts be consecutively numbered and of  
 21 either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory.

22 In Florida the session, as the Chairman has indicated,  
 23 begins January 22nd and ends in March 2002. If somehow the  
 24 session ended without a redistricting plan, the Governor is  
 25 required by the Florida Constitution to reconvene the  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 9

1 Legislature in special session, which session shall not  
 2 exceed 30 consecutive days. If the special session ends  
 3 without the adoption of a redistricting plan, the Attorney  
 4 General may ask the Supreme Court to commence  
 5 deliberations, and within 60 days the court must file and  
 6 order setting such plan.

7 During the plan -- during the session if plans are  
 8 adopted for reapportionment, those plans are reviewed by  
 9 the Florida Supreme Court and are not subject to  
 10 gubernatorial veto or approval. The Congressional seats,  
 11 however, do go to the Governor and do not go to the Florida  
 12 Supreme Court for review and approval.

13 If after the plan is adopted the Supreme Court finds  
 14 that the plan is not valid, then within five days the  
 15 Governor will reconvene the Legislature and the Legislature  
 16 has no more than 15 days to adopt a joint resolution on  
 17 reapportionment.

18 In doing redistricting, we have some principles that  
 19 are set forth in the Constitution. The Legislature -- and  
 20 the laws of the United States -- will be guided first of  
 21 all by the principle of one person, one vote. And this  
 22 principle developed from a series of landmark cases by the  
 23 United States Supreme Court in the 1960s. The principle  
 24 stands for the proposition that every person's vote in  
 25 Florida should count as much as everyone else's vote.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 10

1 The practice in several states back then was an urban  
 2 district for the House, for example, might have 250,000  
 3 people and elect one member to the House; whereas, a rural  
 4 district would have 75,000 people and elect one member.  
 5 The Supreme Court considered and concluded that these  
 6 differences in population resulted in people's votes  
 7 counting more in areas, in the rural areas of smaller  
 8 population and that this was illegal.

9 These discrepancies of one person, one vote do not  
 10 require exact or precise mathematical equality, however.  
 11 For Congressional districts the courts have instituted --  
 12 have had the strictest standard. The rule of thumb, the  
 13 population among districts for Congress will be  
 14 substantially less than 1 percent.

15 In other words, if you take the total population,  
 16 divide it by the number of districts, this result, as you  
 17 will see later in the presentation, will give an ideal size  
 18 for a Congressional district. And what comes out,  
 19 according to the courts, would have to be within 1 percent  
 20 of this number, well within. For legislative districts the  
 21 courts have permitted a greater deviation and in some  
 22 circumstances have accepted up to 10 percent deviation.

23 The Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection  
 24 Clause of the United States Constitution have become  
 25 important elements in any legislative deliberation

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 11

1 regarding redistricting. Section 2 of the Voting Rights  
 2 Act prohibits any practice or procedure, including certain  
 3 redistricting practices, that impair the ability of a  
 4 minority community to elect candidates of choice on an  
 5 equal basis with nonminority voters.

6 Florida is also one of the states that contains  
 7 certain jurisdictions that are subject to review under  
 8 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires  
 9 that the covered jurisdiction submit, prior to  
 10 implementation of any proposed change to their practices or  
 11 procedures affecting voting, this includes any changes in  
 12 the redistricting, change of districts, for approval by the  
 13 Attorney General of the United States or the federal  
 14 district court of the District of Columbia. This process  
 15 is known as preclearance. In Florida the covered  
 16 jurisdictions include Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough  
 17 and Monroe Counties.

18 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made to  
 19 the Attorney General's Office. The attorney --  
 20 preclearance is obtained if they do not, either they  
 21 approve it within 60 days or if they file no objection  
 22 within 60 days then the plan can go forward.

23 In any case, the covered jurisdiction bears the burden  
 24 of demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not  
 25 have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 12

1 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or  
 2 membership in a language minority group.

3 In conclusion, the legal rules regarding redistricting  
 4 are somewhat complicated and this is a short presentation  
 5 of these delicate legal issues, some of which have not been  
 6 fully decided by the courts.

7 Mr. Chairman, and members, I, together with my House  
 8 colleague, stand ready to provide you with any assistance  
 9 in this hearing or throughout the process. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. At this  
 11 time I'd like to recognize John Guthrie, who is with the  
 12 Senate redistricting staff and he will share some important  
 13 data on the 2000 census regarding not only our state but  
 14 also this particular region. Mr. Guthrie.

15 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster, members of  
 16 the committee. In order to provide some perspective for  
 17 the public hearing this afternoon, as Senator Webster said,  
 18 I would like to review some of the figures both locally and  
 19 statewide from the census.

20 The key fact that we need to keep in mind when looking  
 21 at census data for the state of Florida is that Florida is  
 22 a rapidly growing state. During the past ten years,  
 23 Florida has grown by more than 3 million people to 16  
 24 million. That's a percentage growth rate of 23.5 percent.

25 As a result of this large rate of growth, Florida's

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 13

1 delegation in the United States House of Representatives  
 2 will increase by two members to a total of 25.

3 The other key fact that we need to observe from the  
 4 census over the past ten years is that different areas have  
 5 experienced different rates of growth. Some areas have  
 6 grown very rapidly. For instance, Flagler County has grown  
 7 at a rate of almost 74 percent; Sumter County at a rate of  
 8 69 percent; Collier County at a rate of 65 percent; Wakulla  
 9 County at a rate of 61 percent; and Osceola County at a  
 10 rate of 60 percent. At the other end of the spectrum,  
 11 Monroe County grew at a ten, over the ten-year period at a  
 12 rate of only 2 percent; Pinellas and Putnam Counties grew  
 13 at a rate of 8.2 percent; and Wakulla County -- or Gadsden  
 14 County grew at a rate of 9.7 percent. All other Florida  
 15 counties grew at a rate of 10 percent or greater.

16 Let's look at the numbers for the local area. In Palm  
 17 Beach County, the population over the past ten years  
 18 increased by 31 percent to 1,131,184 people. Palm Beach  
 19 County is the third largest of Florida's counties, exceeded  
 20 only by Dade, Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

21 And that 31 percent, of course, is substantially  
 22 faster than the state rate, the average rate of growth in  
 23 the state, which was 23.5 percent.

24 Martin County to our north increased at a rate of 26  
 25 percent to a total of 126,731 people, and Martin County

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 ranks 29th among Florida's 67 counties.

2 As Senator Scott was explaining, the origin of the  
3 census was for the purpose of providing for equal  
4 representation. And based on the 2000 census,  
5 Congressional, Senate and House districts in the state will  
6 be refashioned in order to provide for one person, one  
7 vote. Districts that now have substantially too many  
8 people will need to shrink because they need less  
9 territory, fewer people, in order to come to equal  
10 population. On the converse, districts that have  
11 substantially too few people will need to gain territory in  
12 order to come up to the appropriate population.

13 The average district population for Congressional  
14 districts based on the '90 census was 562,519 people.  
15 That's going to increase by 14 percent to almost 640,000  
16 people based on the 2000 census.

17 The average district population for Senate and House  
18 districts based on the '90 census was 323,000 and 107,000  
19 people, respectively. And that's going to increase at the  
20 same rate as the rate of growth in the state, 23.5 percent,  
21 to 400,000 and 133,000 people, respectively.

22 This graphic shows the number of people per district  
23 in the state of Florida with the 1990 populations shown in  
24 the aqua color and the 2000 populations shown in the blue  
25 color. And what we do see from this chart is that the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 proportionate increase in the number of constituents per  
2 district for Senate and House districts is going to  
3 increase at a faster rate than the number of constituents  
4 per district for Congressional districts.

5 We have a graphic here that shows the change in  
6 population density during the past ten years. Areas that  
7 are indicated in blue are areas where the population  
8 density grew rapidly. Areas in red are areas where the  
9 population density actually declined. And what we see from  
10 this chart is that both Palm Beach and Martin Counties had  
11 substantial areas where the density grew at a fairly high  
12 rate.

13 The next map shows the same sort of information except  
14 instead of looking at density it looks at the growth rate  
15 as a percentage of what the population was in 1990. And,  
16 again, you see large areas of significant population growth  
17 particularly in western Palm Beach County.

18 Now what do all these changes in population have to  
19 say about the way that districts will be affected based on  
20 the 2,000 census? On the tables where the, where people  
21 checked in this afternoon, we have charts that indicate the  
22 over- and undercount for Congressional districts, Senate  
23 districts and House districts. And what I have here is an  
24 example that shows for the Martin and Palm Beach County  
25 area the Congressional map.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 What we see is that for Congressional District 16 the  
2 current population is 119,000 higher than what the  
3 population needs to be based on the 2000 census. So  
4 Congressional District 16 will need to lose 120,000 people,  
5 approximately, in order to come to the equal population  
6 target.

7 On the converse, Congressional District 23 is  
8 currently underpopulated by 20,529 people, which means that  
9 district needs to grow in order to reach the district  
10 target. And we see a similar pattern for Senate districts  
11 and for House districts in the area.

12 All of the information that I have covered this  
13 afternoon is on the web. As I mentioned, this over, under  
14 information is on the handouts. I would encourage members  
15 and the public to become familiar with all of the census  
16 demographics because that really will be the starting point  
17 for redistricting in 2001 and 2002.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie.

19 Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated earlier, we will be  
20 using these speaker cards to identify each person. And if  
21 you will notice in the lower right-hand corner there is a  
22 number and you will be called in ascending order by number.  
23 So whoever is next will have a good knowledge of when their  
24 time is coming.

25 If there is anyone who wishes to speak, you must fill  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 out one of these. Remember that in order to let everyone  
2 speak, we have to limit you to four minutes. And of course  
3 we welcome any written submissions that you would also wish  
4 to present. If you have any handouts make sure that we  
5 receive them. You can lay them on the front there and we  
6 will enter them into the record.

7 So we will start off with No. 1, if you are ready.  
8 You are recognized.

9 MR. MERKL: Good afternoon, Senator, and members. My  
10 name is Jack Merkl, I'm a citizen candidate for U.S.  
11 Congress in District 19. I'm still in the testing of the  
12 water stage. My main purpose today is to give you some  
13 suggestions to make the playing field more even in District  
14 19, the district I intend to run in, to make it more fair  
15 and more competitive. And redistricting of course is one  
16 key part of that campaign.

17 Now before getting into the specifics of Congressional  
18 District 19, it is useful to take a broader view. And I  
19 have chosen to take a look at Florida, southern Florida  
20 from Lake Okeechobee south. You probably have already  
21 studied the numbers extensively and have noticed that there  
22 are 6.3 million people in the nine Congressional districts  
23 from Lake Okeechobee south all the way to the tip of  
24 Florida.

25 Now by coincidence with Mr. Guthrie's numbers that is  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 exactly enough population to support ten Congressional  
2 districts where there are today only nine districts. These  
3 are the nine districts, the northern border represented by  
4 Porter Goss on the west coast and Mark Foley on the east  
5 coast and the other seven all south of that.

6 Now to help you follow, I hope you can see that, to  
7 help follow my suggestion for remap of the U.S. Congress  
8 for South Florida is, Point 1 is to make ten districts out  
9 of the existing nine in the area from Lake Okeechobee south  
10 to Key West.

11 No. 2 is to keep the same general layout of  
12 Congressional districts. I know you are quite familiar  
13 that there are some strange-looking shapes. A lot of those  
14 shapes are really dictated by the Voting Rights Act of  
15 1965, as Mr. Scott summarized earlier. And my practical  
16 advice and suggestion is that we keep the general shape and  
17 layout of those districts about the same. Of course, some  
18 of the boundaries will have to be changed to accommodate  
19 those that are overpopulated and those that are  
20 underpopulated. And we have to squeeze in one new  
21 district.

22 Now my idea for a new district, let's call it District  
23 24, Florida has 23 now, is to put the new district into,  
24 where else should it be, into the highest, the  
25 highest-growth area. And that is the area from western  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Miami-Dade County going across the tip of Florida to  
2 include the city of Naples, and that largely unpopulated  
3 area south and east of Naples. But it would include the  
4 southern part of Collier County and the western part of  
5 Dade County. And from the north/south perspective it would  
6 run from Key West all the way up to the Broward County  
7 line.

8 This has been the fastest growing area in the state  
9 and more importantly in my view is I predict it will be the  
10 fastest growing state in the next ten years. I think we  
11 should be forward looking. It is easy to look at today's  
12 situation or the past. I won't go into the reasons for  
13 that right now given the time limits.

14 Now as a practical matter, if you put this new  
15 district, let's call it 24, into that area, western Dade,  
16 eastern Collier County, all the districts north of that  
17 will have to inch up a little bit.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

19 MR. MERKL: These will be the districts listed here.

20 Finally, to make District 19 more competitive, the  
21 district needs to transfer out 161,000 of population. I  
22 would suggest moving the southern border of District 19 up  
23 to Atlantic Boulevard and carve out all precincts in  
24 District 19 that have 80 percent or more Democrat registry  
25 and transfer those to District 23, which is just to the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 east, which is a highly Democratic district now and has to  
2 be continued to be a highly Democratic district under the  
3 Voting Rights Act.

4 The result will be about a 10 percentage point spread  
5 favoring -- still favoring the Democrat incumbent, but will  
6 make for a more level playing field. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 2.

8 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon. My name is Jean Elliott  
9 Brown and I have lived in Palm Beach Gardens for eight  
10 years. And in that time I have watched Palm Beach County  
11 explode with growth. And I have seen how easy it is for  
12 our representatives to in effect stop representing the  
13 majority of the people in that district.

14 Now political aims notwithstanding, the most important  
15 goal for our political system is to fairly represent the  
16 people of Florida at all levels of the government.  
17 Fairness is the objective way to redistrict. Fairness is  
18 putting the needs of the people above the needs of the  
19 party. Fairness is drawing the districts in such a way  
20 that people of one party affiliation have appropriate  
21 representation.

22 Right now, although there is a majority of Democrats  
23 registered statewide, the Democrats are vastly  
24 underrepresented in our state government. Our districts at  
25 every level should be drawn to reflect that more even split  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 between Democrats and Republicans.

2 And although I am honored to be here speaking with you  
3 today and I am delighted that you are holding these  
4 hearings, it would be better if you could hold them at a  
5 time when the thousands of working people could also come  
6 and express their feelings. Four o'clock in the afternoon  
7 is a tough one for a great many people.

8 And I questioned, by the -- (Applause) -- according to  
9 the Sunshine Laws, can citizens attend the redistricting  
10 committee meetings up in Tallahassee? And if not, why not?  
11 Anybody want to take a shot?

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We are just listening to you.

13 MS. BROWN: I don't get any answers? Well whom can I  
14 ask that question of later? Mr. Webster, can I contact  
15 you?

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I'm not a lawyer. I think you  
17 would have to ask a lawyer. And we have lawyers here that  
18 possibly could answer that.

19 MS. BROWN: Great. And then I have one other question  
20 which is --

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We do operate in the sunshine  
22 though.

23 MS. BROWN: Good. Well I was hoping if I wanted to  
24 come up and watch I could do that.

25 Will you hold hearings after you have drawn up the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 22

1 tentative district lines? And if you can't answer that for  
 2 me here, who can I ask? I think getting an answer to that,  
 3 that's going to be a question that a lot of people are  
 4 going to have. And certainly being able to petition early  
 5 is good, but being able to petition after you actually know  
 6 what you are petitioning about would even be better. Who  
 7 can I find that answer out from?  
 8 (Pause.)  
 9 MS. BROWN: Don't everybody leap up at once. Okay.  
 10 Well in that case thank you very much for your listening  
 11 skills.  
 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 3, you are recognized.  
 13 MS. POWELL-CRANEY: Good afternoon, my name is Angela  
 14 Powell-Craney, and I have been a resident of Palm Beach  
 15 County for just over 20 years now. And for 17 of those 20  
 16 years I have been a teacher with the Palm Beach County  
 17 School District.  
 18 My career has given me a front row seat to the  
 19 population explosion here in Palm Beach County. Not only  
 20 has our population in Palm Beach County grown in number, it  
 21 has also grown in the richness of its cultural diversity.  
 22 With these factors in mind, I truly hope that you are  
 23 guided not only by nonpartisanship, but by fairness to all  
 24 the people in Palm Beach County as you consider this  
 25 reapportionment process.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 23

1 I feel that it is of the utmost importance for the  
 2 representatives of Palm Beach County to live in the areas  
 3 in which the bulk of their constituents live. Only then  
 4 can they be truly connected to the people that they  
 5 represent and to the issues which affect them.  
 6 I thank you for your time and attention this afternoon  
 7 to all of our concerns.  
 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 4, you are  
 9 recognized.  
 10 MR. OSER: No. 4, I feel like I am in a bakery or  
 11 something.  
 12 (Laughter.)  
 13 MR. OSER: Let me say this, let me say I'm going to  
 14 put my glasses on first. I'm Sam Oser, vice president of  
 15 the Century Village Democratic Club in West Palm Beach,  
 16 part of the 86th District. This is very important to us.  
 17 We are looking for fairness and decency and honesty.  
 18 We took a beating in the last election, we feel it was  
 19 a bad count, for whatever the reasons are. Now I can get  
 20 into that when I have a few hours with you. Our area is  
 21 basically Democratic. And we have voted Democrats into  
 22 office. They hold to our ideals and have been loyal to our  
 23 voters.  
 24 This may be a threat to those who don't like that. We  
 25 do not want our district split up in any way. We are a  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 24

1 close community and want to make sure that that  
 2 relationship is maintained. I know you can do anything  
 3 with the figures, I have seen them. They are like  
 4 accountant's figures, you know, you can move them around  
 5 and whatever.  
 6 If necessary, we would go to court to make sure that  
 7 our area is maintained as is. I can assure you if it did  
 8 come to that, I would have 1,000 people in the courtroom to  
 9 protect our community. You can be sure of that.  
 10 While I say this, I am skeptical. You come before us  
 11 with no tentative plan, or map layout, tentative layout.  
 12 That's what should have been here so that we can discuss  
 13 what the thinking is before these sessions. I become  
 14 suspicious, maybe that's because I am 75 and I have been  
 15 around the block a few times. I don't like to be that way,  
 16 but that's the way it is.  
 17 I believe the kingpins in Tallahassee have already  
 18 plans to increase their power. It is a helluva thing to  
 19 say, but I think it is true. They are not leveling with  
 20 the people. Yes, I'm skeptical and don't like to be.  
 21 I tell you again, we do not want our community split  
 22 up. We would like to see a tentative plan before it  
 23 becomes a reality.  
 24 Most of us are seniors. Many have fought our wars, I  
 25 have. Some have lost family and friends in those wars,  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 25

1 some have been laughed at in the last election because they  
 2 voted the way they voted. They came in wheelchairs,  
 3 crutches, being led, and they were laughed at because we  
 4 made a mistake on the ballot. Some are now dead, others,  
 5 seniors, I want you to bear this in mind, will be voting  
 6 their last time in 2002.  
 7 We are looking for honesty and decency. I don't want  
 8 to be skeptical. We are proud to look at our flag flying  
 9 high. Please, we don't want to see it at half-mast.  
 10 Respect our community. Thank you.  
 11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you.  
 12 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going  
 13 back to the first lady who spoke, she had some questions.  
 14 And if -- I guess the answer was you aren't prepared to  
 15 answer the questions today. There may be other people that  
 16 raise questions. And is the direction to address them to  
 17 the counsel for the committee or how would you like to  
 18 proceed?  
 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Well we are here, this is just one  
 20 part, one very small part of the total process that we have  
 21 scheduled. And, therefore, we are not here to answer  
 22 questions today, we are here to listen to testimony and  
 23 that's all. That's part of the public input. The more  
 24 time we take answering questions, the less opportunity we  
 25 have to hear from people.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 I'm here to get a perspective, a perspective of what  
2 you would like to have for your district, and you can tell  
3 me that. Those things will be established. I don't set  
4 any of the schedules or anything that happens. I'm the  
5 chairman of the committee and this is what I have been  
6 allowed to do so far, and that's what I intend to do. I'm  
7 going to listen to you. And once that's over, and once the  
8 public hearings are over, there will be other things that  
9 will be settled and decided and noticed.

10 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman?

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: As far as answering questions,  
12 those questions are somewhat open-ended. I don't know the  
13 answer and therefore I'm right now -- I don't have a  
14 direction from the President of the Senate or the Speaker  
15 of the House or whatever about answering those questions.

16 I don't know when we are going to have hearings.  
17 Those will be established under rule by the person that you  
18 voted for for president, John McKay. And that's his  
19 choice.

20 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman, would you prefer that  
21 the people that have these questions address them to the  
22 Senate President? Again, we can't stop people from asking  
23 questions.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I think they should ask their local  
25 Representative or Senator. And if they have questions  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MS. DUKE: Thank you for listening to me. My name is  
2 Mae Duke, I am a resident of Century Village in West Palm  
3 Beach, I'm also the president of the United Democratic Club  
4 of Century Village.

5 I appreciate that you invited us here to present our  
6 pleas for our community. And I'm taking this chance to  
7 appeal to you, please, do not divide our Village. It is a  
8 Village of adult -- it is an adult community that is gated.  
9 Their needs and their wants are very similar and they want  
10 one district. They are now divided in two and it is an  
11 uneven division, and it is a source of confusion when we  
12 get new people in. We try very hard to keep them informed  
13 in every way, but we appeal to you, do not cut up our  
14 Village because we are hardworking people in the community,  
15 but we want our needs addressed.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 6.

18 MR. BOGORAD: My name is George Bogorad, I live in  
19 Century Village. My State Senate District is 35, my State  
20 House District is 86, and my U.S. Congressional District is  
21 16.

22 Century Village seniors are interested in very common  
23 issues. Under no circumstances should Century Village,  
24 West Palm Beach, be broken up in any fashion whatsoever.  
25 This is fair because of our overwhelming senior  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 about how the lines were drawn, they should ask the people  
2 that voted for it last time. If they have questions about  
3 the way they will be drawn this time, I think that, too,  
4 will be left up to their local representatives.

5 As far as I'm concerned, as I said initially, this is  
6 an open process. We are going to be looking to your  
7 Senator and your Representative to help us craft these  
8 district lines. And, therefore, if you have questions,  
9 direct them to your local representatives. They are the  
10 ones that are going to be crafting the districts and they  
11 are going to be the ones responsible for the way they look.

12 This is going to be a totally open process. And the  
13 more open it is, the more input you will have from your  
14 elected representatives. And if you appreciate them, if  
15 you like them, and you are in contact with them, and you  
16 know them, that is the easiest place to get answers. And  
17 so I would encourage you to ask your Representative or  
18 Senator what problems or what you would like to have done.

19 I'm here to get a statewide view and that's all.

20 SENATOR KLEIN: Okay. And I would just ask, I guess  
21 people should address their questions to their legislator  
22 as well as the committee chair and the Senate President or  
23 the Speaker and we could try to get some answers that way.  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 5.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 circumstance. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 7.

3 MS. DOWLING: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  
4 members of the committee. I am Jean Dowling, treasurer of  
5 the Century Village Political Action Committee. It is with  
6 great emphasis that I support our elected representative  
7 from District 86, Susan Bucher. She has represented our  
8 district well and we do not want to see it change. We do  
9 not want change because of partisan politics. We do not  
10 want change because of some hidden agendas. We do not want  
11 change to rid this district of leadership that may  
12 challenge majority politics in Tallahassee.

13 We do want fairness. We do want our present  
14 representative who understands our diverse population of  
15 Hispanic, African American, Haitian, Asian, and other  
16 groups, who also understand our needs. We do want our  
17 present representative, who understands we are poor and  
18 rich, we are seniors, youth and all in between. And she  
19 works very hard for us. Again, we do not want partisan  
20 politics.

21 We hope you are listening. We are listening and  
22 watching. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 8.

24 MR. SHAPKIN: Good afternoon, thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
25 and members of the committee for this time to appeal to  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 you.

2 The statement here is a statement of fairness. The  
3 reapportionment process now underway holds the possibility  
4 of altering Florida's political landscape for the next  
5 decade. Redrawing political boundaries based on new  
6 population data is one of the most important duties of the  
7 State Legislature. Floridians from all backgrounds and  
8 geographic areas will be closely watching the proceeding as  
9 it unfolds.

10 As we monitor this process, we would hold the  
11 Legislatures in Tallahassee to a simple standard. Is their  
12 plan and the process they are using to shape, to be shaped  
13 and will it be fair. Is it fair to all the state citizens,  
14 to members of all racial and ethnic groups, to all  
15 communities of interest, to all residents of all parts of  
16 the state regardless of the party affiliation?

17 Fairness means allowing the public to have meaningful  
18 input into the reapportionment process. We wonder if this  
19 will happen. Fairness means assuring that the public has  
20 the tools to review and understand the redistricting plans  
21 and comment on them accordingly and in a timely and  
22 meaningful fashion. We wonder.

23 And fairness means a process and plan that takes into  
24 consideration the concerns of the state's diverse ethnic  
25 community, including African American, Haitian, Asian, and  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Hispanic communities. Again, we wonder.

2 Finally, fairness means listening to the public and  
3 respecting that sense of communities of interest. It means  
4 taking the time to understand areas of concern based on  
5 environmental, educational, social service and other public  
6 policy concerns.

7 We ask that the hearings be held in a more -- in more  
8 areas so that Floridians do not have to travel over 200  
9 miles just to have their voices heard. We ask that the  
10 political subdivisions such as cities and communities be  
11 considered more strongly in the new proposals. We ask that  
12 the State Legislature direct the holding of public hearings  
13 after plans are released so that the public can react to  
14 actual proposals.

15 We ask that sufficient time be provided before any  
16 legislative action to allow the public to respond to all  
17 proposals that are to be considered at all legislative  
18 meetings, including committee meetings and floor votes.

19 We ask that no plan --

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

21 MR. SHAPKIN: -- we ask that no plan be prepared or  
22 debated until after the full public debate on specific  
23 guidelines is held and guidelines are adopted and  
24 published.

25 We ask that as a minimum these guidelines provide and  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 direct, meet all legal and Constitutional requirements and  
2 that they are as compact as possible, considering the  
3 necessity of protecting voting rights for minorities,  
4 protecting communities of interest, and respecting  
5 political subdivisions.

6 Finally, we ask that all the legislative actions on  
7 redistricting reapportionment take place at times and in  
8 locations that maximize citizen input.

9 One last sentence, if I may, as Justice Potter Stewart  
10 said a half century ago, Fairness is what justice really  
11 is. In asking for fairness, we are asking nothing more  
12 than justice and we demand nothing less. And we will  
13 remember. You have caused us to remember, and we will  
14 remember at the polls.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 9.

16 MS. MCCARTY: Mr. Chairman, and members of the  
17 committee, I'm Mary McCarty. I'm here today as the  
18 Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County.

19 First of all, I wanted to say how exciting this is for  
20 those of us that are Republicans in this state because this  
21 is the first time in modern Florida history that  
22 Republicans have been in charge of drawing the lines. And  
23 certainly as we speak of fairness today, this is certainly  
24 a time I think the Republicans are looking for fairness in  
25 our opportunity to draw these lines.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 I want to compliment you on coming here and around the  
2 state with really a blank slate for listening to the  
3 people, to hearing what we have to say before you start  
4 drawing the lines. Had you come with a tentative plan, the  
5 cry from a lot of people would have been, You have already  
6 made your minds up, why did you come and talk to us now?  
7 So I am very happy that you have come with a blank slate  
8 for us to give our input today.

9 I also want to compliment the leadership for this  
10 process. This bipartisan committee I am standing in front  
11 of I think is a testimony to the fairness that has been  
12 committed to by the leadership, and I want to compliment  
13 you for that. I want to compliment you for the south  
14 county hearing that I know Senator Klein fought for and was  
15 agreed to by the leadership in this county. We desperately  
16 needed an extra hearing in south county because of the size  
17 and the interest in this county and I want to thank you for  
18 allowing us to have that extra hearing.

19 I want to compliment you for the availability of  
20 software at a very cheap price so people can participate in  
21 the drawing, and also for the web site information that you  
22 are going to provide the public. This is a much more  
23 inclusive process than it has ever been in the history of  
24 this state and I think you ought to be recognized for that  
25 and you ought to be commended for that.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Now to get to the matters at hand, ten years ago Palm  
2 Beach County, which is a very important county, is a very  
3 fast-growing county, and has a large very diverse  
4 population was cut up and gerrymandered very badly. We  
5 were a donor county to other counties. And what we would  
6 like to see and have the opportunity to have districts that  
7 have a majority of their population in Palm Beach County.

8 Now, for instance, when we talk about some Senate  
9 seats, State Senate seats -- and I have one of my favorite  
10 Senators, Senator Pruitt, right in front of me and then  
11 also Senator Sanderson that represent us very, very well in  
12 Palm Beach County, we want to keep them representing us.  
13 But what we would like to see is a look at the coastal area  
14 of our county to see if we can eke out another Senate seat  
15 in the coastal area of Palm Beach County. And we would  
16 like you to look at that and see if that makes some sense.  
17 We still want to continue representation by Senators Pruitt  
18 and Sanderson, but want to see if we can eke out more of a  
19 Palm Beach County based seat on our coast.

20 We also would like to see our significant Hispanic  
21 population recognized in the redistricting. We would like  
22 to see our African American and our Haitian populations  
23 recognized. We have some districts that recognize the  
24 African American communities of interest today, we would  
25 like to see that preserved, but we don't want to forget the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Hispanic and Haitian population as well as we have a very  
2 large amount of them in this county. And we would like you  
3 to make sure that you recognize that.

4 As far as the Congressional seats go, we are  
5 represented by four very, very good Congressmen. We would  
6 like to continue to be represented by four Congressmen.  
7 Congressmen Shaw and Foley have represented us very, very  
8 well. I think what we would like to see is Congressman  
9 Shaw come more into Palm Beach County, more into the Boca  
10 Raton area. We think there are some opportunities there  
11 for him and maybe cut off his Dade County participation  
12 because really --

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Ten seconds.

14 MS. MCCARTY: -- we think the communities of interest  
15 between Broward and Palm Beach are closer than they are  
16 with Dade and Palm Beach.

17 So thank you very much for having me here today and I  
18 look forward to your plans as you draw them. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 10, No. 10.

20 MS. BURNS: Hello, I'm Nadine Burns and I am a citizen  
21 of the small town of Lake Worth. And I say "small town"  
22 because we are 5 square miles.

23 For people in my neighborhood, and I am the president  
24 of our neighborhood association, sometimes we feel like we  
25 are a much bigger city, that we must be 20 square miles.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 We have three Senators, three Representatives that  
2 represent us.

3 That sounds wonderful, except as we organize and we  
4 learn more of how our city runs and how we provide services  
5 to our community, we become more aware of how many things  
6 our old city has worn out or become obsolete, like streets,  
7 buildings, lights, facilities, et cetera.

8 We are also aware of how restricted funding is for  
9 them and the tax base we currently have is unable to  
10 support the necessary services and improvement for these  
11 issues. And they are not uncommon in our state; however,  
12 we feel it is crucial that we not be divided by so many  
13 representatives and that our issues shrink in priority when  
14 you do so.

15 We have accepted the responsibility as citizens to  
16 support our city and neighbors in their endeavors to  
17 improve our community, and we look for you-all to realize  
18 the importance of having a louder voice and the benefit of  
19 a representative tied in with our issues.

20 I commend everyone that spoke tonight, they all had  
21 good points. I'm a working person, as you see, and keeping  
22 within the speed limit laws made it here. I hope that the  
23 format that you go and to present all of this enables  
24 everyone to participate.

25 We have an awful lot to offer in Florida. We have not  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 only grown in population, I think we have grown in  
2 commitment to our community. So please give us an  
3 opportunity to speak and to be heard. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 11.

5 MR. MARKS: Mr. Chairman, commission, my name is Don  
6 Marks. Obviously I'm unprepared, I'm representing the  
7 Justin Marks Foundation.

8 To tell you briefly what happened, three years ago  
9 Palm Beach County lost 30 kids. At that point my son was  
10 one of them. At that point I turned to our legislators and  
11 I didn't know where to go. The closest one was Sharon  
12 Merchant's office. She wasn't my area, but nobody knew, my  
13 lawyers, nobody knew who our representatives were.

14 My Senator was Senator Geller, he lives in Hallandale.  
15 He had no idea what was going on in Palm Beach County. I  
16 battled for three years. And with the help of my favorite  
17 Senator, Senator Klein -- you have got input from Mary and  
18 so I thought I would use Senator Klein -- we got something  
19 accomplished.

20 But it is very important to -- and also I live in  
21 Wellington. In Wellington I have two Senators. If you go  
22 one, you know, across the street you are in Senator  
23 Rossin's area, and in this one you are Senator Geller's  
24 area. Nobody really knows where they are.

25 We need our legislators close. They should live in  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Palm Beach County not, you know, Martin County or whatever.  
2 You can't get ahold of them. When you need something done,  
3 you need to get it done quick and they have to know what's  
4 going on.

5 I am really kind of unprepared but I always kind of  
6 shoot like this, you know, letters or whatever. We need  
7 the district to live in Palm Beach County so they can  
8 represent the people the way it should be represented and  
9 they have to know what's going on.

10 I guess that's all I have to say. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 12, No. 12.

12 MS. LOWENDORF: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and  
13 members of the committee. My name is Carol Anne Lowendorf  
14 and I was born and continue to reside in West Palm Beach  
15 where I am registered to vote. I am also a member of the  
16 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal  
17 Employees and president of AFSCME Local 3041.

18 I want to thank the committee for holding these public  
19 hearings. I would like, however, to note that the vast  
20 majority of your hearings are being held during the middle  
21 of the day where it is not convenient for the working  
22 public, which includes most of our membership, to attend.  
23 I am going to ask that as you move this process forward you  
24 strive to make it more open and more accessible and that  
25 all the information be easily available to the public.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Since I have lived in Florida all of my life and was  
2 born in West Palm, I have seen firsthand the explosive  
3 growth that we have had in Florida and how much it has  
4 changed as we have gone on. And I am really concerned that  
5 the most accurate census data be used during the  
6 redistricting process. News reports have indicated that  
7 over 200,000 Floridians were missed on the 2000 census.  
8 And we know that a lot of the minority groups were  
9 disproportionately represented in this undercount.

10 Since Florida was one of the, one of only four states  
11 to not provide precinct-level data to the census bureau, I  
12 would suggest that to compensate for these possible  
13 attendant problems the Legislature consider utilizing  
14 adjusted census data. And that would be more  
15 representative of the minority populations. We do not want  
16 you to draw lines to chop up our districts to fit some  
17 special agenda. We just want a fair process and a fair  
18 outcome of the redistricting process.

19 I would also hope that as the Legislature begins to  
20 draw -- the redrawing the process, that you would honor  
21 traditional redistricting principles such as keeping  
22 together communities of interest. It is very important to  
23 keep communities that share interests together for the  
24 purpose of representation. We have huge numbers of  
25 retirees and seniors who live in districts, and they  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 have -- they must have shared representation.

2 Palm Beach County also deserves to have at least one  
3 member of Congress who resides in Palm Beach County. The  
4 current makeup of this district not only holds together  
5 communities of interest of Palm Beach County, but they must  
6 make sure that these districts are contiguous, compact and  
7 that they represent political lines by being contained only  
8 within Palm Beach County.

9 I am also a little disappointed that there are going  
10 to be no public hearings scheduled after the maps are  
11 drawn. That only hearings are going to be in Tallahassee.  
12 I mean, that there are going to be no regional meetings.  
13 Very few working men and women in Florida will be able to  
14 travel to Tallahassee in order to attend these meetings.

15 For the record, and to be inclusive, I really feel  
16 that it would only be fair that the joint committee should  
17 schedule some of these regional meetings after the maps are  
18 finalized for public comment out in the different regions  
19 and districts. And thank you very much for allowing me to  
20 speak before you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 13.

22 MS. BOLTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and the  
23 honorable delegation. I want to thank you so much for  
24 giving us the opportunity to express our opinions about  
25 this very important redistricting we are about to engage  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 in. I am Linda Bolton from the village of Wellington. I  
2 sit on the village council. And we are faced with many,  
3 many varied challenges for which we need help.

4 Challenges such as, we have phosphorous removal  
5 issues, we have growth management issues, we need our  
6 legislators to stand with us and tall to support school  
7 concurrency. But when we go to our next level of  
8 government it is difficult for us to know who to talk to  
9 and who is interested in Wellington.

10 Just ten years ago Wellington had 20,000 people. It  
11 was just another area on the Palm Beach County map of an  
12 unincorporated area. Five years ago, though, we  
13 incorporated and we had 28,000 people. So in that brief  
14 time we went from 20- to 28-. Now this year's census has  
15 shown that we have grown to 40,000 people. And with the  
16 annexation plans that we have as well as just our  
17 development plans that are in the pipeline, we may be in  
18 fact the largest municipality in the county by the next  
19 census. And that could be 60,000 people.

20 So what I am here to ask you is to consider Wellington  
21 as a community of interest. We are now bifurcated, we are  
22 divided, we don't have any unified or consolidated  
23 representation. As we grow, and we may be the fastest  
24 growing town in Palm Beach County, perhaps the state, I  
25 will ask that you consider Wellington as a community of  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 shared interests. We have equestrians, we have a new  
2 shopping mall coming next month, and we have the people who  
3 have been in town with us all these years.

4 So we have a diverse and unique community, but one  
5 which does need to stay together in order to have its  
6 balance. As I was preparing today for today's remarks I  
7 thought, how can I make a point with you folks that will  
8 help you remember Wellington when the subject comes up with  
9 all the meetings that you have on your schedule. And I  
10 thought, well, maybe because you are politicians there has  
11 to be something in it for everybody. So let me try this  
12 one out on you.

13 Wellington is an area of mostly registered  
14 Republicans; however, in the last election they voted  
15 Democratic. So there is something here for both of you.  
16 So as you --

17 (Laughter.)

18 MS. BOLTON: -- so as you think about -- when you  
19 think about Wellington, think about keeping us together.  
20 We have so many speakers here who have talked about, well,  
21 don't take us apart. I am asking you to put us together.  
22 Put us together for Congressional legislation, put us  
23 together for House and Senate legislation, put us together,  
24 and that's how we are going to be most effective.

25 Thank you so much.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 14.

2 MR. AROJ: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the  
3 panel, my name is David Aroj, I live in Lake Worth. I'm  
4 secretary for an Argentinian organization and public  
5 relations man for the newly-formed Hispanic Alliance, but I  
6 am really representing here the American Jewish  
7 Communities, Palm Beach County chapter. We welcome you to  
8 south Palm Beach County.

9 The American Jewish committee is the nation's oldest  
10 human relations agency now celebrating its 96th anniversary  
11 in Palm Beach County. Its presence dates from 1957, and we  
12 service actually north to Martin and St. Lucie Counties.  
13 Our mission nationally and locally is to protect the  
14 religious and civil rights of Jews and others here and  
15 abroad.

16 There is no immigrant group in America that is more  
17 passionate about the democracy process than the American  
18 Jewish citizens. Thus, whether it is the Constitution of  
19 the United States, the Constitution of the Sunshine State,  
20 or public school system, or other key elements of our great  
21 republic, the American Jewish Community is there to fight  
22 for protecting the nation's ideals and the rights of its  
23 citizens.

24 Redistricting goes to the heart of democracy. You are  
25 really shouldering in this process a lofty but weighty

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 obligation. The ideals of our Constitution expressed from  
2 the very first words, "We, the people," speaks of  
3 representation.

4 That is what redistricting is, a process that makes  
5 our democracy what it is. Representative. Think about how  
6 wonderful this process is. Every voter gets an equal crack  
7 at the system, every representative has the same numeric  
8 duty, but that is maybe the easiest part of it. The rest  
9 of the story is one that shows at every turn somebody's ox  
10 is getting gored. In reality, no process is more political  
11 in the negative sense of the word than this one.

12 It is understandable. You are bound to protect the  
13 incumbent, but what if the incumbent is of another party?  
14 You are bound to protect the integrity of particular group  
15 interests. How do you know if Hispanics and Jews, African  
16 Americans and Haitians, Asians and Russians have similar  
17 concerns? You are bound to create districts that have  
18 geographic integrity, but does it really matter if this  
19 block is over there, if the census tract is over here or  
20 some county rationalized into the map? And what of those  
21 natural barriers, a canal, a lake, a river? The answer is,  
22 yes, of course it matters.

23 The reason it matters is the process. The reason it  
24 matters is that you are rerouting democracy's lifeblood  
25 into tender and often transplanted arteries and veins that  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 will leak or could leak or even rupture.

2 The reason it matters is because someday you, ladies  
3 and gentlemen, will say to your children and grandchildren,  
4 I sat in the legislative body --

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Ten seconds.

6 MR. AROJ: -- of one of the nation's great states and  
7 produced a document that caused our Founding Fathers  
8 watching the process to nod in assent and say, Well done,  
9 fellow Americans, well done. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 15.

11 MR. EGLY: Good afternoon, I'm Joe Egly, City  
12 Commissioner, Lake Worth.

13 And unlike some of the speakers today we are looking  
14 for change. Currently, as you heard, Lake Worth is 5.5  
15 square miles with a population of about 35,000 people.  
16 Currently we are represented by six legislators with Mandy  
17 Dawson to the south some 40 miles away in Fort Lauderdale,  
18 and Ken Pruitt to the north in St. Lucie County some 60  
19 miles away. We have Senator Klein, we have Bill Andrews,  
20 Susan Bucher, and Jeff Atwater representing us.

21 What we are asking for today is to consider and give  
22 us the opportunity to have our own district and our own  
23 representation. I have brought forward a letter, a  
24 resolution from our city commission, which I guess I'll  
25 leave up here on the table, asking you to give us

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 representation, not only Lake Worth but the surrounding  
2 local communities that are in the central Palm Beach County  
3 area. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 16 is withdrawn,  
5 No. 17.

6 MR. SANTO: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my  
7 name is William Santo. I'm the vice president of the Lake  
8 Worth West Democratic Club, and I want to discuss something  
9 that bothers me very much.

10 In the recent issue of the Palm Beach Post, it was  
11 reported that there are approximately 3.6 million  
12 registered Democrats in Palm Beach County. I'm sorry, the  
13 number is 3.9 million registered Democrats in the state of  
14 Florida. There is -- the number of Republicans is 3.4. So  
15 actually there is a greater number of registered Democrats  
16 in Palm Beach County, in Florida, than there are  
17 Republicans.

18 In the recent election we had in the year 2000, for  
19 the presidential election, the turnout for voters was  
20 almost equal. We had almost an equal number of Democrats  
21 coming out to vote as it was Republicans. These numbers  
22 would indicate that there is a great unbalance in the  
23 representation that we have in the State Legislature, and  
24 in the United States House of Representatives.

25 The current makeup of the state of Florida's House of  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 in the United States House of Representatives is as it is  
2 now, we would say that you guys failed your job. You  
3 didn't do the thing that was supposed to be done --

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

5 MR. SANTO: -- you are not representing the people,  
6 and you are not forming a democratic society where each  
7 vote really counts.

8 What is my main concern? My main concern is that the  
9 present makeup of the Florida Legislature is predominantly  
10 Republican controlled. Our Governor is a Republican. My  
11 fear is that when you guys have got to come up to make a  
12 decision on redistricting you are going to favor the  
13 redistricting to favor your own party. And that all that's  
14 going to do is exacerbate the situation and make it even  
15 worse than it is now.

16 Again, we are going to judge the success of your  
17 efforts to redistrict by the representation we see in the  
18 State Legislature and in the United States House of  
19 Representatives. If we see that there is a more equitable  
20 distribution --

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. We need  
22 to go on. We have got four minutes and we have given you a  
23 little bit more time.

24 MR. SANTO: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 17 -- 18, I'm sorry.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Representatives is 77 Republicans and 43 Democrats. That  
2 means there is a majority, that the Republicans have a  
3 majority of 63 percent of the total membership of the  
4 Florida House of Representatives.

5 In the Florida Senate, there are 25 Republicans and 15  
6 Democrats. Again, the Republicans have approximately  
7 64 percent of the total representation.

8 In the United States House of Representatives, the  
9 Republicans have 17 seats and the Democrats have 8. And  
10 that is a -- 68 percent of the seats of the Florida  
11 delegation to the United States House of Representatives,  
12 68 percent.

13 It seems to me that there is a great inequity in these  
14 numbers. It seems to me that in a two democratic society  
15 there should be some equality in the representation where  
16 there is such close numbers of Republicans and Democrats  
17 registered in the state of Florida.

18 I am requesting that when you people make the decision  
19 to form new electoral districts you take into consideration  
20 that the ideal that we are going to look forward to is  
21 seeing an almost equal number of representatives in the  
22 State House and the United States Congress and the House of  
23 Representatives.

24 If we see in the election of 2001 that the present  
25 unbalance of representation in the Florida Legislature and  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MR. GELFAND: Good evening, Mr. Chair, honorable  
2 committee members. My name is Michael Gelfand, I've been a  
3 voter for over 20 years. For a young guy like me, that's a  
4 long time. I'm a father of public school students and a  
5 small business owner here in West Palm Beach, and I live in  
6 south county.

7 My question, and as I came up here, I hoped to make my  
8 entry fast for everyone to move things along, but as I came  
9 up here I looked everyone in the eye and you are all  
10 starting to glaze now and you are having the same question  
11 that I had, what is my purpose here? When I have sat on  
12 committees, when I have appeared before committees, there  
13 is always a purpose. Generally, there is fact-finding or  
14 to comment on a proposal. What facts are you looking for?

15 We like to vote. I went to school in Chicago. We had  
16 a saying up there which was, Vote early, vote often. I  
17 don't know if we want that as a fact-finding.

18 I think the first fact we want is Commissioner McCarty  
19 wants fairness, but fairness does not equal payback. And  
20 that is the message that all of us are getting from  
21 Tallahassee is that what is going to be called fairness up  
22 there is going to be payback for the rest of the state. If  
23 we want one person, one vote, let's avoid the undercount  
24 problem, let's have everyone counted.

25 And also, we need to encourage people to be involved.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 You know that, as people who need to be elected. And we  
2 need compact districts so where I live we don't have three  
3 Congress people within a 1 mile area, or four State  
4 Representatives.

5 I am disappointed that we don't have a proposal here  
6 today. Traditionally we speak on proposals. I came  
7 directly from the Metropolitan Planning Organization  
8 meeting just a few blocks down. When I walked in here I  
9 got a stack of papers. When I walked in there I had one  
10 pamphlet and it provided nice maps as to what their plans  
11 were going to be and they encourage public discussion.

12 Where are the maps that the news media have been  
13 talking about that the folks in Tallahassee have been  
14 working on but that we haven't seen? With due respect to  
15 the Chair, I do not think that your committee should look  
16 to one person as the President of the Senate or the Speaker  
17 of the House to say how you will be making your decisions.  
18 I think what you need to do is put this on television, have  
19 this in the sunshine. The state of Florida was a leader in  
20 public governance. It can be a leader throughout the  
21 country again if we do what is right and if we do it in the  
22 sunshine.

23 Make the decision. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 19.

25 MS. KELLY: Hi, I'm Katherine Kelly, I live in Palm  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MR. DRAYTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  
2 committee. My name is Jim Drayton.

3 And I am rather disappointed that the meeting was  
4 being called at 4:00 in the afternoon. And as many of the  
5 people have said before me, that's a time when most people  
6 are working. I'm sure that all of the politicians who are  
7 here would not have called a campaign address or a campaign  
8 meeting at 4:00 in the afternoon. You would have waited  
9 until you could have gotten to the majority of the people.  
10 And in a sense that shows contempt for the constituency.

11 I hope that the committee has learned something from  
12 the last time that we reapportioned. The African American  
13 community had to go to court in order to be assured of  
14 equity in the process. And we have heard a lot about  
15 fairness here, but I think a lot of people question whether  
16 there will be fairness or whether there is fairness. And I  
17 think that the process is being called into question  
18 because of the manner in which we have gone so far.

19 The Chair says that this is the initial thing, but we  
20 are here and each person is given four minutes to speak,  
21 but on what? Given no information, given no idea what the  
22 agenda is. We know what the topic is, but we don't know  
23 what the agenda is.

24 And there is one thing that certainly bothers me. I  
25 read in the Palm Beach Post where one person, my neighbor  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Beach, I'm Democratic State Committeewoman, and I am  
2 Legislative Director of Florida NOW.

3 I care. And I know all of you do and I know you are  
4 here because you represent the people. And that's what I  
5 ask of you. I didn't prepare a speech, maybe I should  
6 have, but I didn't. So I'm just going to speak to you from  
7 my heart.

8 The people need to feel that they have been  
9 represented. We have been through an occurrence where the  
10 people -- many of the people feel their votes are not  
11 counted. And that's tragic. And I never want to see that  
12 happen again. So what we really need to do in this  
13 country, in this state, in this county, is make people feel  
14 that they matter. That actually people care what the  
15 voters want and need.

16 And so that's what I am -- I am simply asking you for  
17 justice and for fairness. It would be great if you could  
18 down the line a bit throughout the process or later in the  
19 process have some regional hearings like you have heard  
20 about, spoken about today. Then people would feel they  
21 have been included. And that's what people really need,  
22 they need to feel that they are included in this government  
23 and this democracy.

24 That's all I have to say to you. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 20.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 in fact, has filed to run in another district in which it  
2 is not our district. And I'm wondering if that neighbor  
3 knows something that I don't know or if there is some  
4 information floating around out here that would give  
5 somebody enough nerve to file to run in another district  
6 when they don't live there. Some people are saying that  
7 the deal is done. I should hope not.

8 The state of Florida has been in the spotlight  
9 recently for the manner in which we handled the last  
10 election. This gives us an opportunity to show and to  
11 demonstrate that the state of Florida can do things  
12 properly, can do things fairly, and will do it that way.  
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 21.

15 MS. RICCIO: Good afternoon, honorable members, I am  
16 Penny Riccio, a resident and a politically-involved  
17 individual of the Palm Beach County western community known  
18 as The Acreage.

19 I have had the privilege to work for the United States  
20 Department of Commerce census in 1990 as well as 2000, a  
21 huge undertaking gathering far-reaching statistical data,  
22 but very important to determining how legislative  
23 boundaries should be drawn, redrawn every ten years. I am  
24 very pleased to be a part of that process.

25 I am speaking as a member of The Acreage Landowners  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Association, and with their permission I speak for  
2 government representatives Jim Green, River Walk, Robert  
3 White, Andros Isle, and Jerry Greenfield Ibis Golf and  
4 Country Club.

5 In considering boundaries for Florida State House seat  
6 84, and Florida Senate seat 35, I present you to an option:  
7 A new district be cut for the Palm Beach County western  
8 communities. Its southern boundary should be Lake Worth  
9 Road, its eastern boundary, Jog Road, its northern  
10 boundary, Beeline Highway, also known as State Road 710, at  
11 the intersection of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road, its  
12 western boundary should be Lake Okeechobee and beyond.

13 This western community district will include but not  
14 be limited to the entire municipalities of Wellington,  
15 Royal Palm Beach, the entire unincorporated areas of  
16 Loxahatchee, Loxahatchee Groves, and The Acreage, and the  
17 PUDs of River Walk, Andros Isle, Bay Winds, Ibis, et al.

18 I want to thank all members of the reapportionment  
19 committee, be you Democrat or Republican, for extending to  
20 your constituents the opportunity to participate and to  
21 speak with you today. From my heart, I humbly thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 22.

23 MS. HUCKSHORN: Mr. Chairman, and members, thank you  
24 for the opportunity to be here. I am Carolyn Huckshorn, I  
25 am speaking as a 40-year resident of Palm Beach County.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 And in that capacity I work with a very large grassroots  
2 network. These are people from every political persuasion.  
3 And they -- their political voices are very, very important  
4 to them.

5 You have the power to ensure that voters in Palm Beach  
6 County have a political voice, you have the power to be  
7 fair. And I thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 23.

9 MR. FRANSETTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a  
10 challenge before us, and I would hope that the political  
11 challenge on the part of some of the elected officials  
12 isn't to take their own best interests and make it appear  
13 as if it is our, the people's, best interests. Our  
14 challenge is to take what is truly the people's best  
15 interests and hope that you will embrace it and have it  
16 appear as if it is also your best interests. And that is  
17 quite a challenge, I might say.

18 To have a comfort level we do need to have an  
19 awareness of what is coming down, what is being proposed.  
20 We know what we have read in the paper, we know what the  
21 suppositions are, we know what the threats of paybacks are.  
22 But I might add, if the Democrats who have done the  
23 redistricting in the past have done such a bad job, how in  
24 the heck did so many Republicans get elected?

25 So I think there must have been a profound awareness  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 And excellent statements have been made and I totally  
2 agree. Let's be inclusive, let's make the information  
3 available perhaps on television, video or whatever. But  
4 thank you for being here and for providing us the  
5 opportunity.

6 My concern, I have lived here for years and watched  
7 and observed previous redistrictings and the problems. And  
8 it is very, very tough, and I would never anticipate that  
9 there will not be changes. It is not a simple process, it  
10 is a tough process. And we all have to acknowledge that it  
11 is certainly a political process.

12 But I think it is critical, and I want to speak about  
13 Congressional districts, that we have Congressional  
14 districts in Palm Beach County where we are represented by  
15 two members, two Congressmen who actually live here in Palm  
16 Beach County.

17 And I'm speaking of Congressional District 19 and  
18 Congressional District 16. I think this is very, very  
19 important for this large, robust, volatile county. As you  
20 deliberate the allocation of political power, that please  
21 also consider that you will maintain, try to maintain  
22 communities of interest as much as possible. It may be  
23 very difficult keeping districts lines intact.

24 Some of you know me as the director of public affairs  
25 for Planned Parenthood of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 of fairness. If that same semblance of integrity and  
2 fairness were it to prevail, and were I able to say I'm not  
3 going to believe what I see in the papers, and that what  
4 you are advocating is going to be fair, then I think you  
5 would assure us that more Democrats would be elected in the  
6 future and we would have a better balance.

7 Now that is being a little naive, I would think, and I  
8 don't believe that any one of you would tell me that that  
9 is reality. But sometimes an open process is like a tree  
10 that falls in the forest. And I remember that from my  
11 youth. When I heard it in school the teacher was  
12 explaining, if no one hears it, there was no sound.

13 So when we are having an open process with no dialogue  
14 back and forth and we don't know what we are playing into,  
15 we can only guess what you are up to, and we know what we  
16 read in the papers, and we want to be of a mind that we can  
17 say, that's not true, that's not really what you are up to,  
18 then we can appeal to your fairness.

19 And I would ask that when we do this, what we have to  
20 do is to look at areas of common interest, and that's been  
21 expressed throughout the fabric of what has come at you  
22 prior, in the communities, in the developments where people  
23 live. And if you look at a map and look at the things and  
24 look at the proposals where people want to carve out  
25 districts, the political interests are not going to serve

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 the common interests. And I would ask that you do the  
2 people's business and do it in a fair and just manner.  
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 24.

5 MR. NEWELL: Good evening. Thank you, members and  
6 staff, for the reapportionment meeting here in Palm Beach  
7 County. I'm Commissioner Warren Newell, Chairman of the  
8 County Commission here in Palm Beach County.

9 And I also want to especially thank the Senate and  
10 House Chairs, Senator Webster and Representative Byrd, for  
11 again being here. And also I want to thank them for  
12 helping set up the meeting tomorrow in south county. And,  
13 Senator Klein, I saw you somewhere, thank you also for  
14 helping out in south county.

15 Reapportionment members, Palm Beach County  
16 Representatives Andrews, Macheck, Mack, Senators Dawson,  
17 Geller, Klein, Pruitt and Sanderson also thank you for your  
18 help in Palm Beach County.

19 We have grown here in Palm Beach County, 1.1 million  
20 people. When I was a little kid growing up here in Palm  
21 Beach County, I'm a third generation native from West Palm  
22 Beach, things have changed dramatically. Diverse  
23 population, the wealthiest in the coast and some of the  
24 poorest areas in the west. We have some of the largest  
25 rural areas. In fact, we are the largest rural area in the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 state.

2 Representative Macheck, very close friend, represents  
3 that rural area sometimes and helps us out on a lot of  
4 issues out there.

5 Presently we have ten members of the House, as you  
6 know, six members of the Senate. We have been very  
7 fortunate to have some excellent representation here in  
8 Palm Beach County. But reapportionment is very important  
9 to us for many, many reasons. And just on July 24th, Palm  
10 Beach County did pass a resolution regarding the  
11 reapportionment, and that has been provided to your staff  
12 and provided to each one of you after the meeting.

13 And basically what the reapportionment plan that we  
14 are hoping to help with is providing Palm Beach County  
15 residents the assistance of having the Senators and  
16 Representatives live in Palm Beach County. And also to  
17 compact the districts, the Senate and the House, as much as  
18 possible.

19 As an elected official, my third term, I realize how  
20 difficult it is for the changing of districts. Palm Beach  
21 County is going through the same thing right now. My first  
22 time doing that, and not an easy time, but we will get  
23 through it.

24 I just want to say again very clearly and want to  
25 thank everybody because I personally and our other fellow  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 commissioners have had a great working relationship with  
2 our local delegation, Representative Atwater, Senator Klein  
3 is our representation who has been leading the Legislature  
4 from Palm Beach County for the last two years.

5 We appreciate your help and look forward to working  
6 with each one of you on this important, important issue.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 25.

9 MR. ROBINSON: My name is Herman Robinson, and I'm  
10 from Lake Worth. And I want to ask you to not just  
11 consider one man, one vote but representation. People have  
12 mentioned they don't know who their representatives are and  
13 I have to question whether our representatives know who  
14 they are representing. I ask you to please have the  
15 courage to represent the communities geographically. Don't  
16 just consider your party, but represent all the  
17 communities. If you are good, you will get elected. And  
18 have the courage and sensibility to do it geographically,  
19 to represent people and not parties. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Okay, members, and  
21 ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to take a five-minute break  
22 for our court reporter. So don't go too far because it is  
23 kind of crowded up here, but we will take a five-minute  
24 break.

25 (Brief recess.)  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay, we are ready to take No. 26.  
2 No. 26. Okay, we have our next presenter, if everyone  
3 could give attention to our next presenter, please. If you  
4 have conversations and you are standing up, please take  
5 them outside. We want to give every attention to the  
6 person speaking.

7 MR. MURPHY: Chairman, and members of the committee,  
8 my name is Bill Murphy, I live in Boca Raton on 21st Lane,  
9 which is the most southerly street bordering Palm Beach  
10 County and Broward County. It is on the Hillsborough  
11 Canal.

12 Ten years ago with redistricting, I all of a sudden  
13 was in a Broward County representative situation. And I  
14 had some concern about this, but as I found out it didn't  
15 matter at all. My legislator and Senator were very  
16 receptive to any time I called to always return my calls,  
17 and it still stands the same today.

18 Having everything within a county would be nice, but  
19 with the reality of it all, I doubt it can happen. And I  
20 just want to, since this is a minor issue, I believe, than  
21 what I have been listening to it -- it was of no concern to  
22 me over the last ten years as soon as I made some calls and  
23 found I was represented.

24 And I know that my legislator and my Senator today in  
25 District 31 on the Senator side and 91 on the legislative  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 side maintain phone numbers and 800 fax numbers to keep in  
2 contact with their constituents, if they would like to  
3 reach them. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 27.

5 MR. SALDANA: Hi, my name is Henry Saldana, and I  
6 represent the Latino Leadership Institute. We are a  
7 leadership development, advocacy, nonprofit, nonpartisan  
8 group.

9 And what I am here to say is the changing face of  
10 America raises important questions throughout our society,  
11 especially in politics, which leads us to our very next  
12 question or questions rather. Are minorities fairly  
13 represented at the levels of politics or all levels of  
14 politics? Do we have an equal voice and equal opportunity  
15 to elect representatives who consider our needs and  
16 interests?

17 The process of redistricting will determine how our  
18 local schools, city commission and State Legislature, and  
19 even Congressional districts are drawn. How can we ensure that our  
20 communities participating? How can we ensure that our  
21 interests are being heard and represented by our elected  
22 officials? How can we ensure that the voting strength of  
23 our communities is not weakened? The only way to  
24 accomplish this is to ensure a fair and equitable  
25 redistricting process.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 A Latino issues forum, a California-based policy and  
2 advocacy organization, showed that when it comes to  
3 Hispanics and Latinos there are different motivators that  
4 impact the decision-making and how they vote. Number one  
5 is the urging of the Latino leaders, and number two, the  
6 issues relevant to Latinos being discussed throughout the  
7 election. The development of bilingual material is also  
8 important.

9 The Latino vote has dramatically changed Florida  
10 politics. Latino voters have moved from being counted out  
11 to being courted. This has been possible because Latinos  
12 are registering and voting in record numbers. Therefore,  
13 candidates and campaigns need to pay more attention to the  
14 concerns of Hispanic and Latino voters and that assumes  
15 that they have their vote by speaking in general terms.

16 Loyalty and activism will follow from accountable  
17 elected officials, not election politics and election day  
18 promises. We must avoid falling through the trap of  
19 creating voter dilution in the communities. The need to  
20 avoid minority vote dilution should not only be a  
21 compelling justification for the creating or creation of  
22 minority -- majority-minority districts, but also helping  
23 to protect the districts from Constitutional attack.

24 One State Representative district which we are going  
25 to be watching very closely is State Representative

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 District No. 86. This is the State Representative Susan  
2 Bucher's district. The elected official in this district  
3 is presently the first Hispanic State Representative  
4 elected official in Palm Beach County and we are determined  
5 to protect the district based on the redistricting  
6 principles previously mentioned.

7 Protection of this district will prevent the  
8 commission from Constitutional attack. It will assure our  
9 community of a fair and equitable redistricting process, as  
10 (inaudible) commission for redistricting for the state of  
11 Florida.

12 We are presently working with a group of  
13 community-based organizations throughout the state of  
14 Florida in addition to other organizations at the state  
15 level, and the federal level, rather. Some of these are  
16 Hispanic, a leadership institute out of Chicago, a voter  
17 registration organization out of Texas, the  
18 Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund out of  
19 California, and the Puerto Rican Legal Fund based out of  
20 New York.

21 We, meaning our redistricting committee, which  
22 consists of representatives from the Jewish, African  
23 American, Haitian and Hispanic communities want to be able  
24 to participate in the final decisions of the redistricting  
25 process as it affects Palm Beach, the Hispanic/Latino

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 community and other minority communities as a whole.

2 We want to be allowed to work with you and your  
3 consultants to create a fair and equitable redistricting  
4 process --

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

6 MR. SALDANA: -- as it affects the Hispanic community  
7 and other minorities throughout the state of Florida. Our  
8 objective is the creation of fair districts for Hispanics  
9 and other minorities where Hispanics and other minority  
10 groups may be fairly represented.

11 Which way the Hispanic/Latino vote swings in the 2002  
12 and 2004 upcoming elections will be determined by the  
13 attention the Legislature gives to Hispanics in the  
14 redistricting process.

15 Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 28.

17 MS. ORLANDO: Good afternoon, my name is Myra Orlando,  
18 I live in unincorporated Palm Beach County. I'm within a  
19 special district, Indian Trail Improvement District, I'm  
20 part of The Acreage, my mailing address is Loxahatchee, I'm  
21 in M2 West, Unit 6, Section 11. I chose to live in  
22 unincorporated Palm Beach County because of the large lots,  
23 the rural atmosphere, it is an exurban tier in our managed  
24 growth system, but I did not choose not to be represented  
25 by a State Representative or a U.S. Congressman. So I have

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 taken an active role in my community and in Palm Beach  
2 County.

3 I am not here today to tell you how to redraw your  
4 boundaries because I personally have to research it myself.  
5 I have been on your web site, there is a wealth of  
6 information, I am aware that you are going to be doing  
7 E-mails and you have a software program that we can use. I  
8 am hoping that with that information we will be able to  
9 contact you later. I thank you for this opportunity to  
10 come before you.

11 I am a historian by choice, I love the American  
12 history. I have -- one of my favorite collections is the  
13 Annals of American History. It has a lot of quotes from  
14 the presidents. My son is in 10th grade so he is studying  
15 the Lewis and Clark Expedition. So I went to my Annals and  
16 I saw what President Jefferson wrote to Congress at that  
17 time and what he also wrote to Mr. Lewis regarding his  
18 expedition. And what I have come to find out after  
19 studying history is not much has changed from what was then  
20 to what is now. It is just the time.

21 I ran for State House last year, I ran in a district  
22 that was highly Democratic. I ran for that seat because  
23 that's where I live, and I felt that our area needed  
24 representation. So it was a wonderful experience. I have  
25 worked well, I think, with my elected officials on the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 State Legislature, I have also worked well with my adjacent  
2 city council people.

3 And the only thing I would like to suggest at this  
4 time is that District 84 where I reside, The Acreage has  
5 just a very small corner of District 85. And I saw that  
6 District 84 needs seats or needs people, voters, and  
7 District 85 needs to lose some. So perhaps when you are  
8 looking at it, you could see that tiny little portion and  
9 put it back into 84 with the rest of The Acreage area.

10 The rest, I basically feel that they should be compact  
11 districts and that the best we can do is to make them so  
12 that people feel that they have representation and that the  
13 people that represent them are accessible.

14 And I think I have seen my Congress, my U.S.  
15 Congressman once or twice. I am cut off of U.S. District  
16 23, and I saw Congressman Alcee Hastings in Miami before I  
17 moved to Palm Beach County. So I would like to have a  
18 representative that would be in Palm Beach County. I do  
19 talk to Representative, U.S. Congressman Foley because he  
20 is closer to me geographically and has answered my calls.

21 So I do want to thank you. Like I said, if we can at  
22 least have input through the web site and through any other  
23 information that you make available, and I hope you will  
24 receive it and keep it posted so we know what's going on.  
25 And also if there are televised meetings, I do tune in and  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 I do like to keep -- I am also chair of The Acreage  
2 Education Committee and part of our duties is to educate  
3 the adults as well as the children in our area. So any  
4 information that is available we will be glad to pass out  
5 through the community.

6 And thank you for your time.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 29.

8 DR. PRIORE: Good afternoon, members of the  
9 redistricting public hearing committee. My name is Carmen  
10 Priore, I'm the vice president of the Palm Beach County  
11 League of Cities and also the chair of the legislative  
12 committee.

13 The board of directors of the Palm Beach County League  
14 of Cities, Incorporated, joins the Palm Beach County Board  
15 of County Commissioners in officially recognizing and  
16 thanking the Florida Legislature and, more specifically the  
17 Palm Beach County delegation, both our Representatives and  
18 our Senators, for the outstanding contributions and earnest  
19 efforts made on behalf of the collective interests in Palm  
20 Beach County and neighboring communities.

21 In no way would we intend to diminish or  
22 underappreciate the good work these men and women have done  
23 on our behalf by appearing before you today with our  
24 resolution for the 2002 reapportionment process.

25 On behalf of the Palm Beach County League of Cities,  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 mirroring the request of the Palm Beach County, I stand now  
2 to urge you to adopt an apportionment plan in which Palm  
3 Beach County residents comprise a majority of the  
4 constituency in the Senatorial and Representative districts  
5 created.

6 Since the last census/reapportionment process Palm  
7 Beach County has evolved into an intensely populated area  
8 of unique, well-defined interests. Palm Beach County  
9 deserves the most compact and inclusive districts that can  
10 be drawn wholly within the geographical borders.

11 I will read to you now briefly the Resolution  
12 No. 01-02 by title only for the record, and I will submit a  
13 copy to you. And I thank you very much today for giving me  
14 the opportunity to appear. You have a very difficult task  
15 and I wish you-all good look.

16 Resolution No. 01-02, A resolution of Palm Beach  
17 County League of Cities requesting the adoption of an  
18 apportionment plan in which Palm Beach County residents  
19 comprise a majority of the constituents in the Senatorial  
20 and Representative districts created, directing the  
21 resolution be forwarded to the Senate Reapportionment  
22 Committee and the House Procedural and Redistricting  
23 Council providing an effective date and for other purposes.

24 Thank you-all very much.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 30.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MR. REICHERT: Good afternoon, Chairman Webster, and  
2 distinguished panel. I'd like to thank you for the  
3 opportunity to speak with you, and especially I'd like to  
4 thank those of you who travelled such a great distance from  
5 as far away as you have.

6 My name is Mike Reichert, I'm a resident of The Bluffs  
7 in Jupiter. I am served by Representative Negron in House  
8 District 82, Senator Pruitt in District 27, Congressman  
9 Foley in House District 16.

10 I'd like to ask you in this process to consider the  
11 financial cost and wear and tear on the representatives of  
12 oddly-shaped districts. I'm sure having traveled the  
13 district last year from one end to the other, Senator  
14 Pruitt also feels the same way and probably many of you  
15 that have odd-shaped districts probably have this in your  
16 hearts as well. But I would also like you to consider not  
17 only the wear and tear on the individuals but also the  
18 cost.

19 For instance, in the Congressional district that  
20 Congressman Foley has, he has three offices that he is  
21 maintaining. And I would have to think that by eliminating  
22 the need for extra offices in districts that would allow  
23 the state and the federal government to cut the allocation  
24 of the budget that's used for maintaining those offices.

25 Also, I would just like to make the point while we  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 complying with the spirit of the law. Why else wouldn't  
2 you have convened at a time when working men and women  
3 could be here to participate? So much for sunshine.

4 But let's review some statistics. Earlier today we  
5 heard a statement that state growth is something in the  
6 area of 23.7 percent over the last ten years, based on  
7 census data. And population growth in Palm Beach County  
8 was 31 percent, ahead of that average. And Martin County,  
9 just to the north of us, was around 25 percent.

10 Now either Florida is in the middle of an incredible  
11 baby boom or there are a lot of people moving here from  
12 somewhere else. Now based on census data, a good number of  
13 that population is coming from the northeast, the  
14 enlightened and, thankfully, liberal Democratic north. My  
15 point, gentlemen, is that over the next ten years your  
16 state will more than likely see similar growth with people  
17 moving here from the same regions that have fueled our  
18 population, the aforementioned enlightened, liberal  
19 Democratic north.

20 I respectfully submit then to this committee that you  
21 consider the possibility that no matter how you draw the  
22 lines the migration to this state will ultimately undermine  
23 your efforts since you cannot predict with any certainty  
24 the effect of such migration in terms of long-term voting  
25 records and voting trends.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 have all of you here that the schools are in dire need in  
2 the districts served by all of the aforementioned  
3 representatives as well as throughout the rest of the  
4 state, from what I have seen.

5 And considering the school-age children in the  
6 population when drawing the boundaries would show concern  
7 for their needs. Children don't vote or can't vote so  
8 their parents, grandparents and representatives must have  
9 them in mind when they do vote.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 31.

12 MR. AVES: It shows how the times are changing. Ten  
13 years ago I would have been here with a notepad and now I'm  
14 here with a notebook computer.

15 My name is Mike Aves, I'm a Palm Beach County  
16 resident, and I'd like to thank you for taking the time in  
17 the middle of a workday to hear us. It is a shame that  
18 unlike our legislators who planned this event that more  
19 working people did not have the luxury to take time off  
20 from work to be here today.

21 Although I do find it fitting that this meeting is  
22 taking place in the theater. Obviously the Chairman and  
23 his Republican colleagues understand the importance of  
24 putting on a good show. Clearly this committee is  
25 complying with the letter of the law, but by no means is it  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Maybe they will be Democratic, maybe they will be  
2 Republican. We don't know. What we do know is that it is  
3 your job to make certain that voices are heard and voters  
4 are fairly represented.

5 Now since this hearing is not taking questions, and  
6 therefore it is not a truly interactive dialogue, I'd like  
7 to ask all those who are here today who are either  
8 registered as Democrats or Independents to please stand up  
9 behind me.

10 May I please ask that you stand if you are either  
11 registered or a Democrat.

12 All right, I'll take a show of hands.

13 My point being that right now you guys are sitting in  
14 probably one of the few bastions of Democratic strength in  
15 this state. Time and time again the present GOP  
16 legislators ignore the voices of the tricounty area. Well  
17 you are in our backyard now, so you can't ignore us now.  
18 The question is are you going to act on what you hear.

19 Now this process needs to be in the interest of the  
20 people and not the parties. I say this not only to the  
21 chairman and his colleagues but also to Senator Klein and  
22 his colleagues. You need to do what's right. And you need  
23 to make decisions that are made and not merely perceived to  
24 be in the interest of all the people.

25 Now Ms. McCarty may try to put a positive spin on the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 events here today by commending you for not having a  
2 prepared agenda and proposals for redistricting in advance.  
3 And she may call it open, but let's look at her language  
4 from her opening remarks.

5 Is she still here by any chance? Well I think that  
6 also speaks volumes.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

8 MR. AVES: Ms. McCarty referred to a coastal area.  
9 Coastal means Republican. Working families can't afford to  
10 live in the Isle of Palm or Jupiter Island. And creating a  
11 coastal district will benefit your party, but will it truly  
12 benefit the people? Already based on your own comments and  
13 before the lines have been drawn it seems that your agenda  
14 is to grab more power, and with a 60 percent majority in  
15 both houses, how much more would she have?

16 I will cut to the chase. Please, I beg your  
17 indulgence.

18 My challenge to you, to all of you, is to do the  
19 people's business and not the self-serving interests of any  
20 one party. If you do, you will be able to prove to  
21 yourselves as being, and I refer to my Republican  
22 associates here, as being the party of Lincoln, the party  
23 for the common man. You'll be able to show the people who  
24 you really stand for and they will remember you at the  
25 polls.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 represent to me invisible walls, let's try and start  
2 tearing down those walls. And let's start trying to do  
3 things in a more spiritual manner to start bringing people  
4 together.

5 Because it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter. You  
6 don't have to be an African American to know that there is  
7 a problem in our communities. You don't have to be an  
8 African American to know that there are young boys who  
9 excel on a football field and win state championship after  
10 state championship but they can't pass the HSAT. You don't  
11 have to be African American to know that.

12 You don't have to be Jewish to know that there is  
13 something wrong with religious persecution. You don't have  
14 to be Jewish to know that.

15 You don't have to be a female to know that there is  
16 something wrong when a man takes advantage and abuses a  
17 female. You don't have to be, you don't have to be  
18 anything except human. And that's the race that I am  
19 concerned about today, the human race.

20 It is time for all of us to elevate our thinking, our  
21 consciousness and most importantly to think about the 57  
22 percent of the population that was alluded to where I live.  
23 Children who cannot vote, but if they could, they would be  
24 here telling you, I want to be able one day to grow up to  
25 be anything that I want to be. That's the message that I  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 On the other hand, if you do not and you draw these  
2 lines according to the self-serving interests of your  
3 party, again, the people will remember you at the polls.  
4 And we are going to start with the Governor's mansion.  
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 32.

7 MR. HARRIS: Good evening. 6:00 o'clock, good  
8 evening. Are you awake up there?

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good evening.

10 MR. HARRIS: My name is, title is Reverend Richard  
11 Harris. I'm a country preacher from the aforementioned,  
12 alluded to western community of Belle Glade.

13 Ladies and gentlemen, first question, why are we here?  
14 Answer, who really cares? Let me say to all of you it is  
15 time to put the public back in republic. This nation is a  
16 republic, democratic republic. It is time to put the  
17 public back in republic.

18 As you sit here and we stand before you and we ask you  
19 to be fair, nonpartisan, let's deal with reality. If I'm  
20 sitting in your position, whether I'm a Democrat,  
21 Republican or Independent, I'm going to protect my  
22 position. That's the reality. Let's deal with that.

23 So rather than sit here today and talk about what's  
24 best for this party, that party, this segment or that  
25 segment, and be so concerned about drawing lines, which

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 bring to you now.

2 Make sure as you create these districts -- because it  
3 is going to be a dogfight, let's face the reality. Let's  
4 face the reality. It is going to be a dogfight. If we sit  
5 here and stand here and think it is going to be an easy  
6 ride, then you are in for a rude awakening. It is going to  
7 be a dogfight. Rather than let's all argue and fight over  
8 a few bones, let's try to make sure there is enough food  
9 there for everybody so at least we will all be fat dogs  
10 when it is all over.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, the appeal, the challenge, very  
12 difficult though it may be, is not really difficult at all.  
13 It is not about who is right, it is about what is right.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 33.

15 MS. ABRAMS: Hi, I am Joann Abrams, I'm a resident of  
16 the western community which is comprised of The Acreage,  
17 unincorporated Palm Beach County, also where we are lumped  
18 in with Wellington, which has some common interests with  
19 us, and we also are lumped in with Royal Palm Beach. We  
20 have no problem with that.

21 However, the problem we do have is that there are  
22 certain issues that are very particular to our area, the  
23 issue of growth and development. We have a lot of  
24 agricultural properties out there, we are semirural. There  
25 are some areas that are rural. We also have a large

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 equestrian population in The Acreage and in Wellington.

2 And basically although Hank Harper is doing a terrific  
3 job for us, ten years ago we did not have the population  
4 out there. Our population has increased approximately 30  
5 to 40 percent. Combined with Wellington and Royal Palm  
6 Beach and The Acreage we now have about 70- to 100,000  
7 people.

8 We are also being pushed, The Acreage in particular is  
9 being pushed by people who run our improvement district.  
10 They were not elected by the people, by one man, one vote,  
11 they were elected by the large landowners. They are trying  
12 to push us into incorporation without a referendum. Some  
13 of us really don't appreciate it.

14 And we would really like our own House Rep out there.  
15 Our district, Wellington, Royal Palm and The Acreage has  
16 four House Reps and I believe two Senators. And we also  
17 have a very diverse population. It is racially mixed. We  
18 also have a very large senior population, whose needs are  
19 pretty much ignored. They have no transportation  
20 whatsoever out there. I work a lot with seniors as an  
21 attorney, do a lot of elder law.

22 And basically I just want to point out to you guys and  
23 ladies to please consider a House seat that includes people  
24 in the western part of Palm Beach County that will consider  
25 our specific and unique issues. Thank you.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 34.

2 MR. SACHS: Arnold Sachs, I'm also a resident of the  
3 western communities. I'm not going to stand here and  
4 repeat what everybody has said, but we do have a problem  
5 out there. Hank Harper has been great, but we do need  
6 someone to represent the western communities, and not split  
7 between the east and the west. The western communities  
8 have problems of their own, which are much different than  
9 on the eastern side.

10 We are first going through what maybe the east, west  
11 went through 10, 15 years ago. The growth is happening,  
12 there are people who are pushing for incorporation, we need  
13 one person to cover this geographical area. And I think  
14 you guys have to look at this.

15 I think one of the things that one man said before  
16 was, when you redistrict, redistrict by geographical area.  
17 And we have heard the Democrats want to keep their seats,  
18 the Republicans want to keep their seats, every special  
19 interest has been here to say, We want to keep, you know,  
20 we want to keep our elected official because they are  
21 taking care of us.

22 Well, you know, one person did say one thing, which  
23 is, the person who is elected who takes care of his  
24 constituency will be elected again. Whether it is  
25 Republican or Democrat, they will be elected again. And I

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 think that that's part of what you people have to get.

2 And the Reverend was right. Everybody knows it is  
3 going to be a dogfight up there to cover themselves.  
4 Nobody wants to lose their job and nobody wants to put  
5 themselves out. But if the voters see that, everybody is  
6 going to go. I thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 35.

8 MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and  
9 committee members. My name is Martin Murphy, I live at  
10 1071 Grand Bahama on Rivera Beach, Florida. I'm here today  
11 representing myself and the Marine Industry Association of  
12 Florida, and the Marine Industry Association of Palm Beach  
13 County.

14 The Marine Industry Association of Palm Beach County  
15 is one of the 12 sister associations of the state  
16 association. In Florida, our annual state association 2000  
17 report represents that our association has 2000  
18 marine-related businesses with an employment impact of over  
19 180,000 jobs, and an industry equal to \$14.2 billion of  
20 economic impact for our great state.

21 Just a point of interest, that's over twice of what  
22 the citrus industry is. I really don't know why we say  
23 that, but it gets more attention when we do say it.

24 We find it desirable to continue as a coastal  
25 Congressional district. Existing District 22 is  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 characteristic of the true coastline district, serving  
2 southeast Florida, coastlines from the middle of Dade-Miami  
3 County, Miami Beach to Palm Beach County, Juno Beach. It  
4 also includes two of our major deep water ports and  
5 60 miles of the most important thing to the marine  
6 industry, the Intracoastal Waterway.

7 It encompasses -- all of this encompasses portions in  
8 Miami, Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County,  
9 truly called southeast Florida's Gold Coast.

10 We suggest your redistricting District 22 as the area  
11 east of the Intracoastal to the Atlantic coastline from  
12 this area, Miami Beach to Juno. If additional areas are  
13 required to fill the census numbers, the multicity area  
14 along the coastline is an ideal place to cross the western  
15 Intracoastal Waterway as the maps have done in the past.  
16 This is a cohesive real estate area and by using the  
17 Intracoastal Waterway as a guideline, governmental entities  
18 which traverse easterly will be represented by  
19 multi-congressional members to represent them.

20 I thank you for your time, patience mostly, from the  
21 marine industry.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 36 is withdrawn.  
23 No. 37.

24 MS. LePORE: Good evening. My name is Theresa LePore,  
25 I'm the supervisor of elections for Palm Beach County. And  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 welcome to Palm Beach County. I'm also president-elect of  
2 the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections  
3 so I'm coming to you from a totally different angle than  
4 the rest of the speakers today.

5 Palm Beach County, as I'm sure you-all know, is the  
6 largest governmental entity this side of the Mississippi  
7 River. It is very large. We have 37 municipalities in our  
8 county. The majority of our municipalities have more than  
9 one representative, whether it is Congressional, State  
10 House, State Senate; meaning, they either have more than  
11 one Congressional representative, more than one State  
12 Senate, more than one State House.

13 We also have a lot of areas that -- areas of community  
14 interest that are actually cut up by redistricting. This  
15 will be my fourth redistricting, reapportionment. I  
16 started in the elections office in 1971 when I was six  
17 years old (Laughter) so I have seen a lot. And every ten  
18 years it gets worse and worse as far as the arguing, the  
19 fighting, the cutting up of the districts, and the delay in  
20 getting the information back to those of us that need to  
21 make it work, if you will.

22 Making it works means getting the information ready  
23 for the candidates and the voters of the county. With all  
24 your extension time lines and lawsuit time lines and  
25 federal guidelines and everything, if we wait until the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 very end, which puts it close to July, mid July, you have  
2 got qualifying right behind that.

3 Not only is it difficult for the elections  
4 supervisors, and believe me we are not afraid to work, and  
5 we are not afraid to spend the time that it needs to put  
6 into redistricting our jurisdictions, but the time we need  
7 to make it work, especially in large counties, re-precinct  
8 everything, get the information out to the candidates, the  
9 candidates that have to campaign, they don't know where  
10 they are campaigning, they don't know what voters are in  
11 their district until the very last minute.

12 And also for the voters, to get the information to the  
13 voters. Voters during the reapportionment process are very  
14 confused. We in Palm Beach County, and I know in a lot of  
15 other counties around the state, mail new voter  
16 registration cards out to the voters, in addition to a lot  
17 of other materials that we send out that most of the time  
18 get thrown in with the junk mail. They show up at the  
19 wrong precinct to vote and, you know, the rest is history  
20 as they say.

21 Also, in doing the other things, behind-the-scenes  
22 things, that it takes to put on an election. I mentioned  
23 drawing new precinct lines. We currently have 530  
24 precincts in the county. After reapportionment and judging  
25 from history, we are looking to probably have about 700  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 precincts. This means we have to find homes or polling  
2 locations for those precincts, which is not an easy job.  
3 We need to find poll workers for those precincts.

4 We need to get the information out to the voters, what  
5 precincts they are in and where they are supposed to go.  
6 All this takes time to get that information out.

7 So I would implore all of you to make every effort you  
8 can -- and I know it is very difficult, I just have Palm  
9 Beach County to cut up, you have got the whole state to  
10 do -- but to do the best you can to get it done as soon as  
11 possible, to get us the information so that we can get it  
12 out to our voters and to our candidates.

13 Just a couple examples of the many examples of areas  
14 of community interest that are cut up. I have a very small  
15 trailer park --

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

17 MS. LePORE: -- that's just north of us. The streets,  
18 the House district line runs in between the streets. On  
19 one side of the street they are in one State House  
20 district, across the street they are in another. And this  
21 trailer park has about 50 trailers in it. We have district  
22 lines that run through condominiums. So just whatever you  
23 can to keep the communities of interest, municipalities all  
24 together. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 38.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 MS. JOSEPH: Good evening. My name is Joan Joseph,  
2 I'm a resident of Jupiter, Florida, and an active member of  
3 the Democratic Party of Palm Beach County. And thank you  
4 for allowing me to speak to you tonight.

5 My message is short, and perhaps more philosophical  
6 than most. I hope that as you travel through this  
7 difficult journey that you have chosen called  
8 redistricting, that you will never forget and never lose  
9 sight of the true meaning of the essence of fairness. I  
10 hope that simply put fairness means to you recognizing and  
11 representing the needs of all people in the districts that  
12 you draw equally and equitably. I hope that fairness means  
13 to you that in drawing these district lines you share --  
14 you draw them so that people will share the same issues and  
15 concerns, and that the representatives of these districts  
16 will be truly able to contact you and find you accessible.

17 And finally, I hope that fairness in making these  
18 districts means to you drawing them more compact so that  
19 they will be more manageable to all of us. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 39.

21 MR. MANNING: Good evening. My name is John Manning.  
22 I'm a little bit different than most of the other people  
23 here today. I am the executive editor of the Town Crier  
24 newspaper which serves Wellington, Royal Palm Beach,  
25 Loxahatchee, and The Acreage. I have a reporter here  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 that's actually covering this. They usually chain me to my  
2 desk on Wednesday and don't let me out, however, I escaped  
3 and so I am here today. Thank you for taking some time to  
4 hear my comments.

5 As a newspaper editor, I know more than most of the  
6 wide-reaching effects of the decisions that will be made  
7 between now and the end of the special legislative session  
8 on redistricting next winter. My point here today is to  
9 comment both as a citizen and as a leader in Palm Beach  
10 County's western communities of Wellington, Royal Palm  
11 Beach, Loxahatchee and The Acreage.

12 I have attached here, and I handed this all in to the  
13 wonderful lady up from when I signed in so you-all have  
14 this, a series of editorials that we have written in the  
15 newspaper about this process starting in July of 2000, over  
16 a year ago, "Keep a Sharp Eye on the Redistricting  
17 Process," followed to July of this year when this hearing  
18 was announced, "Redistricting Plan Takes Shape," and then  
19 last week, "Make Plans to Attend the Redistricting  
20 Hearing."

21 This talks about the importance of the redistricting  
22 process to shape the communities that we represent. I  
23 believe quite clearly that they reflect our opinion  
24 regarding the need for district lines to be drawn with more  
25 consideration to the fastest-growing communities in Palm  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Beach County and in South Florida.

2 Currently I understand there are many communities  
3 across this state that share similar concerns. But ten  
4 years ago I believe a great disservice was done to the  
5 western communities when what was a much smaller area back  
6 then was broken up into four different State House  
7 districts, none of which are based in the western  
8 communities.

9 Now I have of course met and spoken with each of the  
10 sitting Representatives and they are all fine people. I  
11 notice that Representative Gannon is here today and  
12 Representative Machek. Mr. Machek in particular has been  
13 quite active in Wellington issues since he was elected last  
14 year, and I thank you for that.

15 However, we feel that a single seat centered in the  
16 western communities will be of more benefit than having  
17 four Representatives each with a small fraction of the  
18 area. It is highly unlikely that anybody who lives in the  
19 western communities would be elected to the State House.  
20 We are of course very, very fortunate that Senator Rossin  
21 calls an area very near the western communities his home  
22 and we see him very, very often.

23 When it comes to the State Senate, we fully support  
24 the Palm Beach County legislative delegation's call for  
25 more Senate districts based inside Palm Beach County.  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Also, we feel it is imperative that Wellington be placed in  
2 a more local Senate district as opposed to being lumped  
3 into a district based in southern Broward County. Although  
4 I have met Senator Geller, he is a very nice person, he is  
5 not in the Wellington area on a regular basis more than  
6 once or twice a year.

7 As far as the U.S. Congress is concerned I just need  
8 to point out that I have never seen Representative Hastings  
9 in Wellington or Royal Palm Beach, even though he does have  
10 thousands of constituents in the area. I do not mean to  
11 attack Representative Hastings. He has a huge district  
12 which is all over southern Florida. Perhaps a more  
13 centrally located district would be better.

14 I understand that not all of this will be possible,  
15 but I thank you for any attempts that can be made, and  
16 thank you very much for hearing my talk.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 40.

18 MS. EMIHOVICH: Good evening, my name is Miriam  
19 Emihovich, and I live obviously in Palm Beach County. I am  
20 also someone who works with the homeless and the indigent  
21 and have advocated for them in this county.

22 And I would like to join with others who have spoken  
23 before me in urging you support and adopt the issues  
24 outlined in the statement on fairness presented to you in  
25 Tallahassee at the first public hearing. Rather than  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 repeating that which has already been said, I would like to  
2 focus on the importance of holding at least a few regional  
3 hearings to report back to us after you have adopted  
4 criteria for drawing districts and after you have actually  
5 developed some maps.

6 We realize that the Legislature will be meeting in  
7 Tallahassee in January, and the public will have an  
8 opportunity, as it always does, to participate in committee  
9 hearings. However, as you know, it is very difficult and  
10 very expensive, especially for those that I represent, and  
11 for many people to travel to Tallahassee in order to  
12 participate in this process.

13 This is such an important process that it is important  
14 for as many people as possible to have an opportunity to  
15 respond to what you do with the information you are  
16 currently in the process of gathering.

17 As has always been pointed out -- as has already been  
18 pointed out, it is the people who live in communities that  
19 will be the best informed on what their community is  
20 interested in and how it will be affected by lines that  
21 have been drawn.

22 Thank you for your time, and this opportunity to speak  
23 to you, and good luck.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 41.

25 MS. LARAMORE: Good afternoon. My name is Cynthia  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 Campbell Laramore, I am a project coordinator for Active  
2 Citizens Together Improving Our Neighborhoods, the acronym  
3 is ACTION. We are based in Belle Glade and we serve the  
4 communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay as  
5 community advocates and provide community education  
6 opportunities to the residents regarding various issues;  
7 one principally is the uplands restoration as well as  
8 student achievement are our focus areas.

9 I almost feel like saying welcome to the club to the  
10 western communities of Palm Beach County. It was not until  
11 the last draw of the redistricting that the communities,  
12 western Palm Beach County, I'm kind of understanding what  
13 the difference is now, were ever able to have black  
14 representation. For my entire life and the lives of my  
15 parents, except for a special district that was carved out  
16 in the county commission as a low-income minority community  
17 we never had anyone to carry our voice forward in any level  
18 of government.

19 So welcome to the club. It is a frustrating club, but  
20 it is a club that we as communities that are on the shores  
21 of Lake Okeechobee refuse to join again. We are not  
22 willing to be a community where our representation, our  
23 concerns and our voices are muffled because people now have  
24 that experience.

25 When I look at these maps, and I'm not sure if I am  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 happy or glad that you don't have graphic presentations,  
2 things here for us to see, because I'd like for you to go  
3 back when you review the transcript or if you listen to the  
4 tape to understand what was defined to you as the western  
5 communities. It defined the only three municipalities as  
6 Lake Okeechobee, and the developments as the communities of  
7 Pahokee, South Bay and Belle Glade are all incorporated  
8 within Palm Beach County and are a part of the 37  
9 municipalities that Ms. LePore just mentioned.

10 But when I understand that people who choose to be  
11 outside of a city structure or governance then want to  
12 usurp that position by classifying themselves as if they  
13 were legitimate municipalities, because they weren't  
14 presented in the way that would say, We decided that we  
15 don't want to be a part of this, Ibis, Loxahatchee,  
16 Loxahatchee Groves. And those are people who have decided  
17 that they don't want any intermediary government.

18 We are participating in our local government, we  
19 participate in our state and our federal. When you pull  
20 voting statistics, especially around our municipal election  
21 times, even though it is low, the residents of our  
22 communities participate very well in their municipal  
23 elections. So when we come to other levels -- and we can  
24 get some type of local voice, but when it comes to our  
25 problems being, and our concerns, outside of our  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 community --

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

3 MS. LARAMORE: -- we are a federal community, we are a  
4 community controlled by comprehensive Everglades  
5 restoration, the Cuban embargo, the sugar price supports,  
6 and immigration laws. So we are a federal community. And  
7 to have our voice lost again because some communities find  
8 out what that experience is is not acceptable. It is not a  
9 plea that I am making, it is a caution that I am presenting  
10 to this committee as you sit down and redraw your lines.

11 Thanks.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That's all the  
13 appearance cards we have. And it has been our custom, we  
14 would like Senators or Representatives who would like to  
15 make remarks, we will start first with those members of the  
16 delegation in this region and if you will just let me know  
17 if you want to speak I will be glad to recognize you.  
18 Senator Klein.

19 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 On behalf of the Palm Beach County legislative delegation,  
21 and I think you heard there are a number of us here today,  
22 I would like to thank all the participants, those of you  
23 who stayed and those who have already left and presented  
24 your opinions.

25 Those of us who live in this community understand the  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 tremendous growth, the fact that we are the third largest  
2 county in the state, the fact that although we have ten  
3 delegation members, ten House members, six Senate members,  
4 that we are an extremely diverse community with tremendous  
5 growth, a tremendous number of varying issues, very diverse  
6 populations. And that there is a very broad-based goal to  
7 make sure that we have as many people in the Legislature  
8 that live and work and understand the issues from Palm  
9 Beach County's perspective up in Tallahassee and up in  
10 Washington.

11 And that's not to say that we have some tremendous  
12 colleagues sitting up here, my colleagues to the left and  
13 right of me here that have done a great job who may not  
14 live in Palm Beach County but represent parts of Palm Beach  
15 County, but it is a goal I believe for this community, and  
16 I heard it over and over again today, to make sure that we  
17 have as many people from a performance point of view and  
18 when elected that their districts are majority based in  
19 Palm Beach County so that we have broad representation.

20 I think also another thing that I heard today and, you  
21 know, I certainly will be advocating for this, is the  
22 interest of having additional hearings certainly in this  
23 area and throughout the state after the presentations of  
24 some initial proposals are brought forward so that those of  
25 you who can't travel to Tallahassee, which is not exactly  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 convenient from here, I know those of us that have to  
2 travel back and forth it is not -- it is expensive and it  
3 is time-consuming, but that we want to do everything we can  
4 to bring this back to you so you can feel you have an  
5 opportunity to participate all the way through the end of  
6 the process, either in person or through any other way.  
7 And that we want to certainly encourage that.

8 But, again, we are very grateful that you took time  
9 out of your busy days today to be here with us, to extend  
10 your opinions to us. And we will certainly do everything  
11 we can to make sure that your opinions are part of this  
12 process. But stay with it, it is a multi-month process  
13 that's going to go well into next year. And we are very  
14 interested in continuing to hear from you.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Representative Harper.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HARPER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would  
18 also like to concur with the comments that Senator Klein  
19 has made and thank all of you for making this a priority in  
20 your schedule to be here with us this evening.

21 Mr. Chair, in the spirit of your direction to our  
22 constituents that are here today to propose any questions  
23 that they may have about the process to their individual  
24 Representatives or Senators, do we have some type of  
25 criteria that we can follow as Representatives and Senators

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 within our specific districts to respond to these  
2 constituents that have already begun asking us questions,  
3 even during the intermission period today so that we can  
4 follow up with them with some accurate information and  
5 concise information.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Are you asking me a question?

7 REPRESENTATIVE HARPER: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You are a member of the  
9 Legislature, I'm a member of the Legislature; I have one  
10 vote, you have one vote. You have all of the ability that  
11 I have. I have been appointed as Chairman but that doesn't  
12 make my vote count any more than anybody else's. And so  
13 you should use everything within your means as a member to  
14 answer your constituents.

15 Yes, Representative Machek.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MACHEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also  
17 want to thank everybody for coming today. I think Palm  
18 Beach County has spoken well today and we do have one more  
19 hearing tomorrow in south Palm Beach County.

20 It is a unique county, it has a tremendous population,  
21 and it has tremendously grown in the last ten years to  
22 something that we probably didn't figure would ever happen  
23 but it has. And it is going to be very difficult for the  
24 redistricting committees to divide this county up to take  
25 care of everybody's wishes, but I'm sure that these

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 committees will do that.

2 And as a legislator here in Palm Beach County if there  
3 are questions anyone wants to ask me, I'll do everything  
4 that I can when in home or in Tallahassee to come up with  
5 some sort of answer, particularly as this process goes  
6 forward. It is a learning process for a lot of us also.  
7 It is not something we can open up this book and just read  
8 it out and make everything work. It all has to be taken  
9 back and put together and sorted through. So as we learn  
10 the process, I'm sure that myself and my other colleagues  
11 will certainly pass that back to our constituents.

12 But, again, I want to thank you for coming.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Gannon.

14 REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 First, I want to thank the committee chair and the  
16 leadership in the House because Senator Klein and I did  
17 work very hard to get an additional hearing in south Palm  
18 Beach County due to the elder issues that our communities  
19 face and I-95, which is basically a demolition derby at  
20 this time -- but hopefully Representative Slosberg will  
21 save us from that. Well, he is working very hard on that.  
22 I want to thank you.

23 But I also believe that with all of the people sitting  
24 at this table and our brainpower that we can figure out a  
25 way to allow our constituents additional input after the

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 maps are drawn so that we can actually take that input back  
2 to Tallahassee. And whether it is by delegation and the  
3 leadership participating or how we do it, I believe that  
4 there is a way that we can do that.

5 And, please, because my district is about 15 percent  
6 minority, and Haitian-Americans there are about 6 or  
7 7 percent, not everyone has a computer. And please don't  
8 everyone think that, and they are not always accessible to  
9 people in my district. And for us to easily say, Oh, they  
10 can get it on the Internet, frankly many of my constituents  
11 particularly in the Haitian community, there is a language  
12 barrier, as I'm sure there is in many areas in Dade County.

13 And I think it is critical that we have, we allow our  
14 constituents as much input into this process. And also  
15 after the maps are drawn to comment on the effects that  
16 these maps are going to have on their communities of  
17 interest and their condominiums and all of those issues.  
18 And I would suggest that collectively we can figure out a  
19 way to do that so that everyone can have an opportunity to  
20 comment on the maps. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Sanderson.

22 SENATOR SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too,  
23 would like to thank you and the committee, and welcome to  
24 the area, and to the people who are out in the audience and  
25 those that have already left.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 98

1 I am one of those legislators who resides in another  
 2 county, I happen to live in Fort Lauderdale, and I have  
 3 very much enjoyed representing the people that live in Palm  
 4 Beach County. They have been very good to me, I have  
 5 represented the area of Boca Raton for eight years, since  
 6 1992. I am a 20-year legislator.  
 7 And I think that there are many areas that have  
 8 commonality, and I think sometimes it is in the eye of the  
 9 beholder when we start to look at what the criteria are for  
 10 areas of interest.  
 11 And as a member of this committee these are the types  
 12 of issues that I keep in mind and will keep in mind as we  
 13 go forward in our deliberations. We don't have any maps  
 14 today to show you, they don't have any for us to look at  
 15 either. So this is a process that we are going to go  
 16 through together. And I think we can do this with calm  
 17 heads.  
 18 We have a lot of collective brainpower here at this  
 19 table and on this committee and with a fine staff. And I  
 20 think that we are going to come up with some maps that will  
 21 please most of the people. We know that in all things you  
 22 are never going to please all the people all the time, but  
 23 I think it is important that your input be there. We  
 24 appreciate you coming to the hearing this afternoon and  
 25 hope to see some of you again tomorrow afternoon.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 99

1 But this is how we learn. And we hear from you what  
 2 is most important to you and that's what we have to take  
 3 into our deliberations. So we thank you very much for your  
 4 time.  
 5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Are there other members  
 7 of the delegation? You can come up here if you want to or  
 8 you can be recognized there. You are recognized.  
 9 REPRESENTATIVE BUCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
 10 appreciate the opportunity to address the committee and the  
 11 other members who are sitting up here. I sat out here as a  
 12 member of the public today, and I do not believe that our  
 13 constituents and the citizens of Palm Beach County have  
 14 proper representation in this process.  
 15 I have concern because I found that there was  
 16 substantial lack of notice for these meetings that we are  
 17 having in Palm Beach County. I recall seeing a notice in  
 18 the Palm Beach Post in English only once. And when I drove  
 19 up to this facility today, the gate entrance to come into  
 20 this facility was locked, and there were no signs outside  
 21 posted.  
 22 And perhaps you come from different areas of the  
 23 state, but my constituents that I serve here are  
 24 substantially elders, and there is a diverse group of  
 25 minorities, and I was a little bit disappointed. So I hope  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 100

1 we can do a little bit better about that in the future.  
 2 I am concerned with the citizens' questions as well.  
 3 I think that many people here have voiced their concerns  
 4 and I don't have the answers. And, yes, sir, Mr. Chairman,  
 5 you are one member; however, you are the chairman, and you  
 6 establish the guidelines, and we don't have any.  
 7 And this is the first time in history that we have  
 8 technology as citizens to fully participate in this program  
 9 of redistricting. We have programs on computers, but we  
 10 can't move with those programs because we absolutely don't  
 11 know what the guidelines are or what the deviations are or  
 12 what the rules are going to be in the future.  
 13 And you, Mr. Chairman, stated directly that the  
 14 guidelines would only be established after these public  
 15 hearings had concluded. That provides, I think, the  
 16 constituents I am equally as a House member elected to  
 17 serve a lot of heartburn. And I hope that there is  
 18 reconsideration for that in the future.  
 19 I hope that you consider the traditional communities  
 20 of interest as well as the traditional voting patterns  
 21 because that is a portion of the law, and the incumbents  
 22 who have worked very hard, as you heard by some of our  
 23 constituents, to understand their constituents' concerns  
 24 and to protect those incumbencies that have worked so hard  
 25 for their citizens.  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

Page 101

1 I appreciate the opportunity to address this  
 2 committee. Thank you very much.  
 3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Are there other members that would  
 4 like to address the citizens?  
 5 (No response.)  
 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay, the meeting is adjourned.  
 7 (Hearing adjourned at 6:40 p.m.)  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25  
 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:

3 County OF LEON:

4 I, JULIE L. DOHERTY, Court Reporter, certify that I  
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the  
6 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and  
7 complete record of my stenographic notes.

8  
9 DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 JULIE L. DOHERTY, RPR  
12 Court Reporter  
13 Division of Administrative Hearings  
14 The DeSoto Building  
15 1230 Apalachee Parkway  
16 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060  
17 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675  
18 Fax Filing (850) 921-8453  
19 www.doah.state.fl.us  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675